

Son of singer-former Councilor Darius Razon killed in car accident

January OFW remittances surge 16.5% to \$917M

Thaksin considers stepping down but only temporarily

After 1017, GMA rating still very low, says poll

High-fat hospital diet alarms Beltran's wife



By Norman Bordadora
NO MORE VIP TREATMENT, please. The wife of detained Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday made this appeal as she scored the Philippine National Police General Hospital for HIGH-FAT/A14

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, March 16, 2006

★★

4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 98

P18

website: www.inq7.net



HONASAN

Gringo heads wanted list

PNP-NBI to hunt down 16; 'rogues gallery GMA's idea'

By Armand N. Nocom and Christine Avendaño

FORMER SEN. GREGORIO "GRINGO" HONASAN leads a wanted list of suspected coup plotters who may carry bounties of up to P10 million each, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

As an Army colonel, Honasan led several coup attempts in the second half of the 1980s against then President Corason Aquino.

He was also linked to the coup attempt of the Magdalo group of soldiers in 2003.

Gonzalez said pictures of

Honasan and his alleged co-conspirators would be posted in public places, printed in a newspaper and broadcast on television "similar to those used against suspected terrorists and kidnappers."

The justice secretary said the "rogues gallery" was President Macapagal-Arroyo's idea.

Gonzalez said the police and the National Bureau of Investigation were forming a "tracking

team" to hunt down Honasan and Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson—among the 16 people against whom police had filed charges of rebellion in connection with their alleged involvement in a plot to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

The plot allegedly was hatched by disgruntled military officers, communist rebels and civilians

and was to coincide with the 20th anniversary of EDSA I People Power revolt that toppled the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos on Feb. 24.

Among the 16 alleged conspirators the police charged with rebellion are six party-list representatives—Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis; Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel

GRINGO/A6

Media warned: No special treatment

YET ANOTHER WARNING WAS issued yesterday to the media, with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye saying that journalists would not be accorded special treatment in the crackdown against those suspected to be engaged in destabilization.

But Bunye said the government would honor basic rights and welcome challenges in court of any action it might take, Agence France-Presse said in a report.

"The press is not a target of censorship, but some members of the press have been charged with violations of law and shall be prosecuted just like any ordinary citizen," Bunye said in a statement.

"We believe in the freedom of the press, but we do not believe in special treatment of media practitioners who run afoul of the law," he said.

He added that journalists MEDIA WARNED/A6

AFP told: Don't be intoxicated with power

By Philip C. Tubeza, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DON'T BE INTOXICATED WITH power.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday gave this advice to the Armed Forces of the Philippines after its spokesperson said on Tuesday that the military "can make or break the government."

Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff and Senate national defense committee chair, urged the AFP to explain whether Col. Tristan Kison was expressing his personal views or if he was stating the collective sentiments of the military leadership. If it is personal, he said, the AFP leadership has the obligation to rein in Kison.

He warned the military "not to be intoxicated with a sense of power."

"To claim that it is only the AFP that is keeping the country together," he said.

AFP/A6



"HEROISM, SENSE OF HUMANITY." President Arroyo hails and thanks the search and rescue volunteers at Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte, who included eight foreign rescue units, 57 units from the military and police, 13 civilians and 238 individual volunteers. Ms Arroyo ushers Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Leria (left) and DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral to the thanksgiving luncheon at the Palace.

Male nurse wants to be a she legally

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—A male nurse who underwent a sex-change procedure abroad is asking the local court for a legal change in gender to female, but the government prosecutor is against the idea.

The 33-year-old man has petitioned the Regional Trial Court to officially revise the sex entry in his birth certificate and to direct the civil registrar of Mankayan town, where he was born on Dec. 7, 1972, to make the correction.

His lawyer asked the INQUIRER not to reveal her client's name for fear that its publication might subject him to ridicule.

MALE NURSE/A14

Nene fumes he's in Palace video on 'enemies of the state'

By TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SENATE MINORITY LEADER Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is fuming over the showing of a documentary portraying him on national TV as an "enemy of the state."

"This is an insidious portrayal of me as a destabilizer," Pimentel said in an interview yesterday.

Pimentel took the Senate floor

on Tuesday afternoon to denounce the documentary, which is being aired on government TV stations and being distributed in compact disc.

"To my mind, it is an attempt to silence me by in effect terrorizing me as an enemy of the state."

The documentary, dubbed "Paglaban sa Kataksilan 1017," details an alleged plot by an alliance of military and communist

rebels and the opposition to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Pimentel said he had never taken part in rebellion, sedition, treason or coup d'etat from the time he fought the martial law regime until he became a senator and leader of the opposition in the Senate.

Pimentel was jailed on three separate occasions during martial rule.

"I was not and am not giving

aid and comfort to the enemy. I am calling for the removal of Ms Arroyo through peaceful means, but that is not treason," he said in his speech.

"If there is an enemy of the state in the country today, it is none other than that lady who is pretending to be the President of this country in Malacañang. She is the enemy of the state," Pimentel said.

The alleged plot led President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue on Feb. 24 Proclamation No. 1017 that placed the country under a state of emergency. She lifted the proclamation a week later.

The documentary shows a footage of Pimentel enjoying a laugh at the foot of the monument of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. in Makati City

NENE FUMES/A14

US cheers autistic basketball player: 20 pts in 4 mins

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush is the latest in a string of high-profile fans to call on Jason McElwain, the autistic basketball manager who drew national cheers by scoring 20 points in four minutes for his high school team.

On his way to Canandaigua, New York, on Tuesday to speak at Medicare events, Bush stopped at an airport near here and greeted McElwain—accompanied by his parents and coach—and called him "a special person."

"Our country was captivated by an amazing story on the basketball court," Bush told reporters gathered on the tarmac, his arm draped around the 17-year-old senior, with Air Force One, the presidential jet, in the background.

US CHEERS/A5



THEY'RE THE TOP

Two women are among the topnotchers of the Mandirigma Dangal ng Lahi (Mandala) PMA Class 2006 graduating this month. From left is class valedictorian Ariel Toledo, cadets Francis Rosales, Romel Sotero, Ethelbert Aaron Klunkala, Michael Gotong, Amina Abdula, Noah Hernandez, Ermin Soloren, Joe Yergel Santos and Joy Peñalosa. (Story on Page A16.)

Giant mall opens 1st breastfeeding station

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 19-YEAR-OLD MOTHER WAS BREASTFEEDING HER baby in a popular shopping mall when a security guard called her attention.

"Ma'am, you can't do that here. Please go to the comfort room," he told her.

Insulted, the young woman retorted: "Why, do you eat in the toilet?" And she continued nursing her child.

The incident—just one of many showing how mothers are prevented from breastfeeding in public—left a strong impression on Dr. Elvira Henares-Esguerra, a lactation consultant and founder of the group called Children for Breastfeeding.

Esguerra's group has managed to convince tycoon Henry Sy to designate a "breastfeeding station" for nursing mothers at his SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The pink, glass-paneled station is in the basement of the Megamall's building A, between the food court and the ice skating rink. It has a kitchen counter and a sofa

GIANT MALL/A14

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, FOR INQUIRER/4/15/06

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news homepage/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Palawan	Partly Cloudy
Quezon	Partly Cloudy	Bohol	Partly Cloudy
Taguig	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laos	Partly Cloudy	Yachuan	Cloudy with Rains
Clark	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Taguig	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Gagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

SC nixes gov't appeal on Piatco

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA SAID YESTERDAY that the government has no choice but to pay P3 billion to the consortium that built the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's controversial Terminal 3 now that the Supreme Court has thrown out a second appeal asking the court to reconsider an earlier ruling ordering the government to pay up.

Ermita made the statement after the high court released a one-page resolution denying "with finality" a second motion filed by the government last Feb. 17 asking the court to reconsider a ruling it made in December ordering the government to pay Philippine International Airport Terminals Corp. (Piatco) P3 billion for the terminal, which the government had had expropri-

ated earlier.

The court said the government's second motion for reconsideration was a "prohibited pleading" and did not merit consideration.

Apprised of the new ruling, Ermita told reporters that the government will comply with the court's decision and that it was awaiting the report of an agency inspect-

ing the terminal and assessing its actual value.

He said administration would also ask the court whether it would be legal for it to enter into contracts with other group's for the terminal's operations after paying Piatco the P3 billion as down payment.

Ermita said the government was more wary of the pending arbitration case filed by Piatco's German shareholder, Fraport AG, in Washington.

"The case in Washington DC might be jeopardized if we open because we have been claiming that the airport is not safe, it is not complete, and therefore the facility cannot be used," Ermita said, noting that the terminal was still 2 to 3 percent unfinished.

"The government's plan is to have an

opening but not necessarily a grand opening. Some portions of the airport will be utilized for regional operations, for South-east Asia only and not Europe or America," Ermita said.

In its December ruling, the Supreme Court ordered a lower court handling the Piatco case to determine the total just compensation due to the claimants within 60 days. But Judge Henrick Góngora of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 117 was killed last Dec. 31.

In its second appeal, the government said that Piatco's sub-contractors Takenaka Corp. and Asahikosan Corp., which helped in the construction of the terminal, were entitled to compensation more than Piatco itself. *Tetch Torres, Lira Dalangin-Fernandez, INQ7.net; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Imelda open to settlement says lawyer

IMELDA MARCOS IS OPEN TO negotiating a settlement with the government not only for the Marcos jewelry collection but for the entirety of the assets and properties she and her husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, are alleged to have acquired illegally.

Imelda's lawyer, Roberto Sison, said a compromise settlement would be a "pragmatic approach" to end almost two decades of litigation.

"My client is open to a negotiation for everything. What we want is a pacific settlement. That's everything. Let's finish this. I think it is the pragmatic approach rather than continue fighting over these assets," said Sison.

The lawyer said his statements were based on his last meeting with the former First Lady on Wednesday.

Sison said the settlement should cover all assets not only in the Philippines but also in the United States and Europe.

Sison's declaration comes on the heels of recent statements from the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency tasked to recover the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, that a compromise deal on the Marcos jewelry could be the start of an overall settlement.

Imelda was "hopeful" that a settlement, involving a surrender of the assets in exchange for the dropping of the civil cases could be reached with the PCGG, Sison said.

"She has [a] very positive outlook on this and she is hopeful that everything will be finished. If we can have it tomorrow, then let's have it tomorrow," Sison said, adding that they would wait for the PCGG to make the first move.

"If it's the PCGG who is looking at a settlement, we will wait for them," he said.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said that the government would go for a 70 to 30 percent sharing agreement in favor of the government. Sison said the Marcos side had no position on this yet.

Aleuin Papa

Mike A files libel case vs Jinggoy

By Jocelyn R. Uy and TJ Burgonio

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO filed yesterday at the Pasay City prosecutor's office a P10-million libel suit against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for linking him to big-time smuggling.

Accompanied by his lawyer, Melanie Trinidad, Arroyo filed his complaint before the office of acting city prosecutor Elmer Mitra at 10 a.m. He refused to speak with the media, but his lawyer said Arroyo has decided to file the criminal case against the young Estrada because "his rights have been violated and he'd like to reclaim his rights using the proper channels."

Estrada maintained he did not say anything that besmirched the reputation of Arroyo, but said that he was ready to face him in court.

"Do you consider this a libelous statement? Any lawyer here would agree that I did not utter a libelous statement," Estrada said in a privilege speech after reading the supposedly libelous statement he made to the media a few days ago.

Estrada had claimed that alleged big-



UNDER OATH, First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo attests to his complaint of libel against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada before Pasay City prosecutor Elmer Mitra.

time smuggler Samuel Lee, who was arrested a few days ago, was associated with Vicky Toh and that Toh had special relations with the First Gentleman.

He said he welcomed the case because it will afford him the chance to refute the allegations and prove that the complaint is a mere political harass-

ment to stop him "from exposing anomalies committed under this illegitimate administration."

The senator said that he was ready to meet Arroyo "face to face" as long as he doesn't wield his powers to influence the proceedings at the Pasay prosecutor's office.

Arroyo, in his complaint, said Estrada's allegations of his links with big-time smugglers were "baseless and utterly false."

Trinidad said that it was time that Estrada realized "that he cannot go on destroying other people's reputation while he hides under the cloak of parliamentary immunity."

REM ZAHORA

SOLGEN'S EXIT
Gonzalez: Benipayo did his best on 1017, but ...

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ YESTERDAY admitted that resigned Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo did make "inconsistent" statements during the oral arguments on Presidential Proclamation 1017 last week.

But he said it was not enough reason for the Palace to fire Benipayo.

Gonzalez said that contrary to reports that Malacañang was unhappy with Benipayo's defense of the proclamation that placed the country under a state of national emergency, he believes Benipayo had done his best.

"Well, nobody is perfect in performing his job. I know he was doing his best... Nobody is perfect," Gonzalez said in phone interview.

Malacañang yesterday insisted that Benipayo resigned and was not sacked.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President respected Benipayo's decision and accepted his resignation "with regret."

"We would prefer not to discuss or speculate on the reasons behind his decision to quit as this is a matter between him and the appointing authority," Bunye said in a statement.

Palace thankful

He appealed to the media "to spare the good man from unfair innuendo," as he stressed that the Palace was very thankful to Benipayo for "services he rendered to the people."

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said that Benipayo's decision to quit was a "loss to the government."

Benipayo submitted his resignation on Monday, telling Gonzalez that he wanted to go back to private life and resume his law practice.

An unnamed official at the Solicitor General's Office said Benipayo was forced out of office by Malacañang which was unhappy with Benipayo's defense of Proclamation 1017.

During oral arguments before the Supreme Court on March 7, Benipayo defended the proclamation but acknowledged that its implementation may have been flawed.

At one point he laughed and apologized for referring to Ms Arroyo's decree as Proclamation 1081, which was the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' martial law declaration.

In reply to a question by one of the justices, he said he had "nothing to do" with the drafting of PP1017.

Gonzalez downplayed the effects of Benipayo's inconsistent statements and blamed the media for blowing the matter out of proportion.

"Sometimes the media interprets the performance of government officials using its own yardstick, which is unfair," he said.

He said there was no reason for him or the President or Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Eduardo Nachura to berate Benipayo on the matter.

"Nobody talked to him [about it] and I'm sure the President did not," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said Benipayo's resignation would not affect the government's cases before the high court which, besides PP 1017, include the calibrated pre-emptive response policy and Executive Order 464, which bans executive and military officials from appearing in congressional hearings.

Nachura best replacement

As for Benipayo's replacement, Gonzalez said he preferred Nachura above the others.

"I think he is the best at this time. He is a constitutional expert. I think he is ready for debates, he has been debating with congressmen, where the worst questions are asked. I'm sure Nachura can stand up to oral argument," he said.

The general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority Alfonso Cusi yesterday said he hoped Benipayo's departure would not set back the cases involving the controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

The MIAA has planned on a "rolling opening" of the mothballed terminal, although it would not say exactly when this would take place.

But it has set a March 31 deadline for the completion of all the finishing touches on the terminal.

It also announced that the Cebu Pacific airline would like to conduct test flights out of Naia 3.

The issue of Naia 3 was tackled during the Cabinet meeting in Cebu the other day, Cusi said, "because it is the desire of President Arroyo to have the terminal opened."

"We are thinking of formulas on how we could have it opened. But we understand that there are legal constraints that have to be hurdled," Cusi said.

Cusi said that there are several other lawyers handling the Naia 3 cases.

The terminal's original builder, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. has filed cases before international arbitration courts over the issue of just compensation after the government expropriated Naia 3 in 2004.

Reports from Christine Avendaño and Nikko Dixon

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ENTREPRENEURIAL FINANCE FOR SMEs

ENTREPRENEURIAL FINANCE

ESTABLISHING THE ENTERPRISE
APRIL 25 - 28, 2006

Program Overview

For owners, entrepreneurs, managers, senior finance officers of small, medium enterprises (SMEs). This course aims to provide participants the basic tools for analyzing the enterprise's financial performance, managing enterprise funds and financial planning and budgeting.

Course Coverage

Learning the basic tools for:

Analyzing Enterprise Financial Performance

- Understanding and Constructing Financial Statements
- Financial Analysis
- Funds Flow Analysis

Managing Enterprise Funds

- Working Capital Management
- Financial Forecasting
- Estimating Financial Requirements

Managing Cost & Profit

- Cost-Volume Analysis
- Product Line Analysis
- Break-even Analysis

Financial Planning and Budgeting

- Master Budgeting
- Operating Budget
- Cash Budget

ADVANCED ENTREPRENEURIAL FINANCE

GROWING THE ENTERPRISE
MAY 30 - JUNE 2, 2006

Program Overview

For owners, entrepreneurs, managers, senior finance officers of small, medium enterprises (SMEs). This course aims to enable participants to organize and align the finance functions and strategies towards greater growth and assured sustainability of the enterprise.

Course Coverage

Learning the intricacies and relationship of:

Financial and Business Direction

- Finance Functions
- Linking Policies and Strategies
- Assessing Financial Performance
- Pursuing Growth and Sustainability

Investment and Growth

- Translating Strategies to Investments
- Analyzing Investment Options
- Assessing Business Risk

Finance and Stability

- Matching Financing to Investments
- Structuring Capital Requirements
- Assessing Financial Risk

Control and Performance Steering

- Analyzing Information Needs
- Setting up Management Control System
- Business Game

For inquiries and reservation, Ms. Luvy Villanueva / Ms. Amy Reyes
Tel + 632 892-4011 to 25 ext. 187, 252, 356, 332; Telefax + 632 813-3302
Email: ace@aim.edu; lvillanueva@aim.edu

Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1200 Philippines



www.aim.edu

ABC 5 says incriminating tape vs Gen. Lim does not exist

A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE ABC 5 television network has denied that the TV station has a videotape interview showing Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim express-

ing his withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a letter to the National Bureau of Investigation, dated

March 14, Regalado Galura, the network's chief operating officer and executive vice president, said he had no personal knowledge of and was "not in

possession" of any such videotape.

NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring, however, said bureau operatives would continue their

search for the tape despite ABC 5's denial.

"Perhaps we can get a copy of the videotape from other sources," he said.

Mantaring also said he would ask Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor for additional information concerning the interview. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Filipino passion
Swiss precision
Cement perfection



Holcim

Strength. Performance. Passion.



Passion for excellence - a mark every Filipino bears with pride. Precision craftsmanship - distinctly Swiss. The best of both worlds combined in one perfect cement brand - Holcim.

www.holcim.com.ph

LYN'S MEASUREMENTS:

Before		After
12"	Arms	10"
31.5"	Waist	27.25"
38"	Hips	35"
23"	Thighs	19.75"
131 lbs	Weight	119 lbs

Total Weight-Loss: **12 lbs**

"Marie France transformed me from a huge American size 10 to a sexy size 4 in just 2 months. It just feels good to know that if you want to lose weight effortlessly - you really can!"

Lynching

marie france
CALL 894-BODY (2639)



Let the people choose

So they can send their kids to school

We take exception to the misinformation that Couples for Christ (CFC) recently peddled to the public about House Bill 3773, the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005. That the ad came out on March 8, International Women's Day, is an insult to women in the Philippines and around the world who have struggled long and hard to uphold and exercise their right to reproductive self-determination, in order to ensure a better quality of life for themselves and their children. These are the facts:

- **HB 3773 encourages but does not impose two children as the ideal family size.** It offers *scholarships at the tertiary level* -- not free college education -- as incentives to poor students with academic aptitude who come from two-child families. But it does not prevent poor students from families with more than two children from availing of tertiary scholarships.

Sec. 12. Ideal Family Size. - In order to attain the desired population growth rate, the State shall encourage two children as the ideal family size. However, this provision shall not be mandatory or compulsory and no punitive action may be imposed on couples having more than two children. Children from these families shall have preference in the grant of scholarships at the tertiary level, taking into consideration the financial need and academic aptitude of the grantees.

- **The term "reproductive health," as defined and used in HB 3773, is not abortion.** In fact, it is meant to reduce cases of abortion by making both natural and modern family planning methods available and accessible to couples (Sec. 4-c).
- **The bill is anchored on the principle of informed choice.** It aims to make both natural and modern family planning information and services available and accessible to parents. It ensures the parents' right to choose which method to use in planning the number and spacing of their children based on their cultural and religious convictions (Secs. 3-c and 3-d).

HB 3773 responds to the need for a comprehensive national policy on reproductive health and responsible parenthood in four ways:

- **HB 3773 is pro-quality of life.** It responds to the widespread lack of access to family planning information and services that threatens the lives of women and children. More than 60 percent of all pregnancies in the country are high-risk and result in alarming death rates for poor mothers, infants and children less than five years old (*National Demographic and Health Survey, 1998 and 2003; State of the Philippine Population Report, 2000*).
- **HB 3773 is pro-poor.** It responds to the stark reality that the bigger the family size, the poorer the family. Around 57% of Filipino families with nine or more children are poor, compared with only 15.7% of families with two children. A majority of all school dropouts, child laborers and malnourished children come from poor families with five or more children (*UP School of Economics, 2004*).
- **HB 3773 is pro-women.** It responds to the desire of poor women, who want fewer children but end up bearing more. They have three times more children than the rich, a ratio of 5 to 2. The same survey says Filipino women on the average want only 2.5 children, and around 61% of currently married women do not want more children irrespective of the number of children they have (*NDHS 2003*).
- **HB 3773 is pro-people.** It responds to the widespread clamor for family planning. Nearly all Filipinos in 2004 (97%) say it is important to control one's fertility or plan one's family -- more than the 94% who held the same view in December 2000 (*Pulse Asia, Feb. 2004*). Ironically, CFC is opposing funding for family planning programs, but it availed itself of P50 million from the Department of Health in 2003 to educate couples on natural family planning. How effectively did they use such a huge amount of public funds for this purpose? Shouldn't it faithfully account for those funds?

Filipinos all dream of a better quality of life. Are we going to deprive them of a fighting chance to achieve just that by denying them the freedom to choose how to plan their families? Do we want to continue putting the lives of women and their children at risk by letting groups, such as the CFC, make false claims and unfounded accusations about HB 3773? Shouldn't CFC be among those that give the good example of integrity and accuracy?

Heed the people's plea. Read the bill and support the passage of HB 3773.

Benjamin De Leon
President, The Forum for Family Planning and Development Inc.

Atty. Rhodora Roy Raterta
Executive Director, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP)

Elizabeth Angsloco
National Chairperson, Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP)

Hon. Annabelle C. Tangson
Aurora Vice Governor and Chairperson, National Organizing Committee of the Local Legislators' League on Population and Development (NOC-3LPD)

Hon. Corazon "Babas" Del Mundo
Secretary General, Philippine Councilors League and Vice-Chairperson, National Organizing Committee of the Local Legislators' League on Population and Development (NOC-3LPD)

Hon. Nijar Hassan
Board Member, Sulu

Hon. Arnulfo Sabalberino
Board Member, Eastern Samar

Bishop Fred Magbanua
Chairperson, Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning

Atty. Marlon J. Manuel
Executive Director, Sentrong Alimangbong Lingap Panlegal (SALIGAN)

Karan Tañada
Executive Director, Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute

Florencia Casanova - Dorotan
Chairperson, Women's Action Network for Development (WAND)

Atty. Maria Barcenilla
Executive Director, Women's Legal Advocacy and Defense Foundation (WomanLead)

Hon. Patricia M. Sarnas
National Coordinator, Mothers for Peace and Commissioner, Mindanao Commission on Women

Perfecto S. Uysinco
Executive Director, TRI-DEV Specialist Foundation, Inc.

Remedios Rikken
Executive Committee, Abansel Pinay

Expectacion Gonzales
Abansel Pinay - Nueva Ecija Chapter

Melou S. Marlin
Executive Director, Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE)

Nini Tolentino-Balaquid
Gender Equity Program Coordinator, Zona One Tondo Organization (ZOTO)

Dr. Ernesto M. Parnia
Professor, School of Economics, University of the Philippines

Dr. Josefina V. Cabigon
Philippine Population Association

Dr. Zaida Zablan
Professor, UP-Population Institute (UPPI)

Dr. Edna E. A. Co
Professor, National College on Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines

Dr. Ederlinda M. Fernandez
Director, Women's Research and Resource Center, Western Mindanao State University

Teresita F. Santiago-Rey
Project Development Officer, Metro Naga Development Council / Metro Naga Investment Promotion Office and Vice - Chairperson, Paralegal Sa Barangay - Naga City (volunteer community work)

Professor Elizabeth A. Pangalangan
Project Director, Reproductive Health, Rights and Ethics Center for Studies and Training (REPROCEN)

Atty. Nolito Quilang
Packard - Gates Fellow

Ramon D. San Pascual
Executive Director, Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD)

Jimmy Caguerra
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)

Marlo Victor Baang
Chairperson, Calbayog Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (CARHAN)

Louie Guillam
Chairperson, Samar Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (SRHAN)

Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)



LOOK WHO'S ROOTING for varsity basketball player Jason McElwain (center; his mother is at his right). No less than US President George W. Bush. But then McElwain, a high school senior in Rochester, New York, playing ball for the first time ever, made sports history and touched the hearts of people everywhere.

US cheers ...

From page A1

"It's the story of a young man who found his touch on the basketball court, which, in turn, touched the hearts of citizens all around the country."

Brain abnormality

Autism is a developmental disability resulting from the abnormal functioning of the brain. It affects a person's communication skills and social interactions.

It typically appears during the first three years of a person's life, and is present in 15 to 20 out of every 10,000 live births. It is four times more common in males than in females.

Bush joked that if his aging body would let him return to the basketball court, he'd want a lesson from McElwain.

Because of his autism, McElwain didn't begin talking until he was 5 years old and still lacks some social skills. Despite suffering from the little understood developmental disorder, he has served as all-around motivator for the Greece Athena High School basketball team, in Greece, a Rochester suburb of New York.

Jaw-dropping performance

Last month, the coach had him suit up for the final home game of the season and put him in with four minutes to go when the team opened a large lead. In his first and only appearance for the team, the 5-foot-6 manager hit six 3-point shots and a 2-pointer and was carried off the court on his teammates' shoulders.

The jaw-dropping performance was caught on a student video and made national news. His parents have received a flood of calls from Hollywood.

Bush said he learned about McElwain from seeing him on TV.

"I wept, just like a lot of other people did," he said, as McElwain beamed beside him.

Some traits

Autism affects each individual differently. Autistic persons may exhibit some of the following traits:

- Resistance to change.
- Obsessive attachment to objects.
- Nonresponsiveness to verbal cues.
- Preference for being alone.
- Difficulty in interacting with people or expressing needs.
- Little or no eye contact.
- Repeating words or phrases.
- Laughing or crying for no apparent reason.
- Tantrums.
- Not wanting to be cuddled.
- Unresponsiveness to normal teaching methods.
- Sustained odd play.
- Spinning objects.
- Apparent oversensitivity or undersensitivity to pain.
- Physical overactivity or underactivity.
- Uneven motor skills.
- No real fears of danger.

'Rain Man'

Perhaps the most famous film about autism is the Oscar-winning movie "Rain Man," starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise. It tells the story of Raymond Babbitt, an autistic savant, or someone with extraordinary mental activities.

Babbitt had memorized names and corresponding telephone numbers listed in a residential directory up to surnames starting with the letter "G." He was also adept in mathematics.

With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

Students • Career Executives • Accountants • Doctors • Nurses
Lawyers • Engineers • IT Professionals • Teachers • Professors
Medical Transcriptionists • Architects • Chemists • Journalists
Scholars • Analysts • Licensure Reviewees
Entrepreneurs

Memory DD TABLET 900mg

READ ER-51005

Sa pagpili ng formula, masusukat ang talino mo.

THE ULTIMATE BRAIN HEALTH FORMULA TO HELP PRESERVE YOUR MENTAL EDGE

No matter what profession you're in, brain power is all you have to succeed. You need to be alert, energetic, and performing at its peak all the time. Memory DD Tablet is loaded with 10 brain-boosting phytonutrients to help sharpen memory, increase concentration and combat mental stress. It's the ultimate Memory DD that gives you the mental edge to rise above the rest and move fast forward to success.

phytotherapy • natural • natural • natural • natural • natural • natural • natural • natural • natural • natural



Each MEMORY DD contains standardized, concentrated, and pharmaceutical-grade extracts of:

- GUTU KOLA-200mg (*Centella asiatica*) promotes healthy blood flow and glucose transport in the brain to maintain optimal cognitive ability.
- BINAHA-150mg (*Bacopa monnieri*) protects and rejuvenates brain nerve cells to assist in mental activity and overall brain function; it also helps alleviate anxiety and fatigue.
- LEAF GINSENG-125mg (*Gynostemma pentaphyllum*) has invigorating properties that aid in the body's fight against stress.
- GREEN TEA-75mg (*Camellia sinensis*) has antioxidant phytonutrients that improve neuronal function, and also linked to lower heart disease and cancer risk.
- SOY LECITHIN-250mg is an important source of choline, main neurotransmitter or chemical messenger in the brain which promotes learning, memory and mental alertness.

Recommended dose: Adults - 1-2 tablets per day.

From the usual
to the grand...

Join **BPI**

**SAVE UP
MOVE UP!**

Want a chance to upgrade your lifestyle? Then start saving with BPI from March to September!

Simply open or maintain any BPI Peso or Foreign Currency Savings, Checking or Time Deposit. Every P5,000 in your savings or checking account or P25,000 in your time deposit entitles you to one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances to win!

Get a chance to win these fabulous prizes!



1ST DRAW:

FROM EXPECTED
TO EXCEPTIONAL!

Double your deposit balance
by as much as P500,000.
You can spend it any way you want!



2ND DRAW:

FROM CONVENTIONAL
TO THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WHEELS!

Drive home a stylish Volvo V50*,
Volvo's confident take
on the station wagon. It offers
unmatched safety and a spirited
driving experience.

VOLVO
for life



3RD DRAW:

FROM SIMPLE LIVING
TO THE ULTIMATE IN URBAN LIVING!

Own a posh studio unit in
The Columns Ayala Avenue,
one of Makati's most vibrant
condominium residences.

THE COLUMNS

Prizes awarded March 1 to September 30, 2006. See Rules for details. Per DTR-NCR Permit No. 04-20 Series of 2006.

PLUS!

Get a free BPI Electronic Gift Card worth P1,000 for every P300,000 additional or new deposit in savings or checking account.

Prizes awarded March 1 to September 30, 2006. See Rules for details. Per DTR-NCR Permit No. 1117 Series of 2006.

So save up with BPI and live it up!

Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center now.
Call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com



**BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK**

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.00

SEA400
SEA SCOOTER

For swimming,
snorkeling
& scuba
diving!



**BEWARE OF
IMITATIONS!**
Always look for
the SEA400
6-months
warranty card!

VALUE SPECS:

	Std.	GL
Depth	80 ft.	115 ft.
Speed	3.2 km/hr	4.8 km/hr
Rechargeable	✓	✓
Carry bag	✓	✓
Promo price	P14,000	P22,900

Call for more
GOODYEAR WORLDWIDE 1639 Kamagong St., Makati City 1003
Tel. Nos.: 897-8771 • 800-1441

Gringo heads wanted list of 16 'conspirators'

From page A1

Virador of Bayan Muna; and, Liza Maza of Gabriela.

Beltran is in police custody while the five others sought refuge in the House of Representatives to avoid arrest.

The 16 also include CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison, National Democratic Front spokesperson Luis Jalandoni, CPP central committee officials Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, Bayan secretary general Nathaniel Santiago, NDF commanding officer Tirso Alcantara, and NDF Bicol regional party head Sotero Llamas.

Also charged with crimes of rebellion and coup were lawyer Christopher Belmonte, retired Col. Jake Malajacan and retired Capt. Felix Turingan; First Lieutenants Angelbert Gay and Patricio Bumidang, members of the Magdalo; and a person with an alias.

50 others

Their cases are entirely different from those filed against some 50 leftist personalities in the Department of Justice.

Asked who would be on the wanted list, Gonzalez said people who were recently charged with rebellion and who had gone in hiding.

"We'll go after those who have been charged and who have submerged (sic) and who continue to pose danger to national security," he said.

Tracking team

Gonzalez said he had already formed a "tracking team" of 10 NBI men "to help monitor the movement of people who [went underground]."

He acknowledged that the wanted list could go as high as 50 but the DOJ would only display the faces of the top 10 or 20 suspected coup plotters.

"If you can put a rogues gallery and a bounty against kidnap for ransom people, why not this one," he said.

Amount of bounties not final

Gonzalez said the bounties were not yet final.

"The basic subject matter there is to offer reward. We cannot even agree on how much ... we

IN THE KNOW

Honasan history

FORMER SEN. GREGORIO Honasan has been involved in several coup attempts in the span of almost two decades.

He has been tagged in the November 1985, July 1987 and December 1989 coup attempts against the Aquino administration but was granted amnesty in 1995, the same year he won in the senatorial elections.

He was also charged with rebellion for being one of the alleged principal instigators of the May 1 siege of Malacañang in 2001, when loyalists of ousted

President Joseph Estrada stormed the Palace days after Estrada was arrested. Other alleged instigators were Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Panfilo Lacson, Ernesto Maceda and Juan Ponce Enrile.

On Aug. 4, 2003, he was charged with coup d'etat for masterminding the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Last month, he was charged again with rebellion, this time for his alleged involvement in the plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo. *Kate Pedrosa, PDI Research*

cannot give P500,000 for the name of Ka Roger," he said.

Some members of the Palace cluster on intelligence wanted the amount to go as high as P10 million per head.

Gonzalez said the money for the program would come from the police, but the list of those to

be hunted down would come from the military.

About 30 military officers and men mostly from the elite Army Scout Ranger unit have either been sacked or are being investigated.

Enough evidence

Presidential Chief of Staff

Michael Defensor called on Honasan to surrender, saying the government was willing to hold a dialogue with him.

"My appeal to Gringo Honasan is for him to face the law and the case against him if he says he is innocent," Defensor said. "We are willing to help him in arranging his surrender and to face his case."

Defensor said government prosecutors had gathered enough evidence to implicate Honasan in last month's plot that forced Ms Arroyo to place the country under a state of national emergency for a week.

Honasan disappeared from public view shortly before Ms Arroyo invoked emergency powers last month.

Others to be investigated

Gonzalez said that apart from the 16, he was also holding another list of personalities who may be investigated in connection with the plot.

He refused to divulge any names, but said his office was "monitoring" among others the Philippine Center for Investiga-

tive Journalism, which had published stories about corruption and fraud in government.

Honasan not involved

In Cebu City, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said he was willing to testify that Honasan was not involved in the Oakwood mutiny.

Biazon said it was he who asked Honasan to accompany him to Oakwood residential hotel and to talk with the Magdalo soldiers so that bloodshed could be avoided.

"We helped establish the line of communication. Our role there was not negotiators but we were just opening the channels of communication," Biazon said.

He advised those who linked Honasan to the mutiny to build up the case against him and not just throw baseless accusations.

Biazon also criticized Ms Arroyo's moves to visit military camps and talk to soldiers.

He said the move of the President showed that she does not have the full support of the military. *With reports from Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau and AFP*

AFP told: Don't be intoxicated with power

From page A1

gether is the height of arrogance," Biazon said in a statement.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday conceded that the military played a "major role" in keeping President Macapagal-Arroyo in power during the Feb. 24 coup attempt that had prompted her to proclaim a state of national emergency for a week.

"We cannot say the President is not in control. The most important thing is that the armed services—the military and police—are living up to their role by respecting the Constitution and the Commander in Chief," Ermita said.

AFP more important

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the President had been seeking reconciliation with opposition politicians but after five years of trying they had not come to the peace table in good faith.

Defensor said this was the reason why soothing a restive military was more important to the President than talking peace with former Presidents Joseph Estrada and Corason Aquino.

"Any reconciliation effort should be mutually acceptable. It's hard to reach out to people that continue to destabilize the government," Defensor said. He added that although there were disgruntled elements in the military, the President was confident "the entire military remained loyal."

Also yesterday, Kison said that the military would not wrest power from Ms Arroyo, citing two historical precedents—the people power revolutions in 1986 and 2001 that ousted Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada and installed civilian governments.

"That is the history of the military toeing the line of the civilian supremacy over the military, so the insinuations about the President being a hostage of the military is not true," said Kison.

Likened to insurgents

Biazon raised a howl after Kison on Tuesday knocked down a plan by the minority in the House of Representatives to hold a dialogue with soldiers on the current unrest in the military without permission of the unit commanders. Kison, Biazon said, likened the politicians to communist insurgents.

Kison said the politicians' planned dialogue would be considered "an interference" in military affairs and would be met with "necessary action."

Biazon said that to regard the legitimate political opposition as among the enemies of the state was "sending a chill along the spine of freedom-loving people."

"Martial law has not yet been declared and yet the military arrogated [unto] itself the power to intervene in the political and institutional process of this democracy," he said.

Biazon said the military had "no business prescribing restraints upon political institutions, including the legitimate political opposition."

"These remarks of Colonel Kison have reduced the Office of the presidency to a mere stamp pad of the AFP's bidding and all the other democratic institutions and institutional processes put in adversarial position," he said. This is a "no-contest situation considering that the AFP has the brute force of arms," Biazon said.

"These restraints now prescribed by Colonel Kison cannot tie up the hands of the representatives of all the Filipino people



Blazon: Height of arrogance

and that is Congress. And soldiers are also constituents of these duly elected representatives of the people," he said.

Flaunting it

Sen. Joker Arroyo said Kison's statement on Tuesday confirmed his proposition that the military was "now the one calling the shots."

"The AFP is now in the saddle and in a position to dictate the terms of what the government should do," Arroyo said.

"They are not even embarrassed. They are now flaunting it with no restraint at all. This poses a problem because they can smell the power and they're sniffing it now and we don't know when they will move," he added.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Kison's "high-handed" view made it appear that the Armed Forces had taken a "messianic role" in the country's affairs.

"It feels discomforting," he said. "Worse," he sounded like they are only after GMA's political



Defensor: Soothing AFP more important

survival," Lacson said.

Election fraud

"I challenge the AFP to stand up and preserve its integrity by denouncing its top officers who remain tainted by election fraud. They should also care about the survival of the people and our democratic institutions that are greatly weakened by Malacañang's disregard for the constitutional and legal processes," he said.

"Sadly, that is exactly the picture of our country today—power is abused, rights are violated, justice is dictated, and worst, even the strongest symbol of our democracy, the media, [are] threatened," Lacson added.

While saying that he doubted that the military could dictate on the administration, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile warned that it could oust the President if she did not do her job.

"At least, that's something I know of because I stayed with them for 17 years," said Enrile

who served as defense secretary under Presidents Marcos and Aquino.

"Now, if they get angry with the President, if she no longer does her real work, then they will oust her," he said.

Not kingmakers

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said military officials should not delude themselves into thinking they were "kingmakers."

"It is fortunate that the military today has decided to observe the chain of command. But they do not have the power to push the button that will eject President Arroyo out of the Palace," said Santiago, a staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo.

"Since the 1990s, military dictatorships all over the world have gone out of favor. International law has been unable to find grounds for declaring a military dictatorship as a legitimate government," she said.

"If some people in the military think that because they are purportedly kingmakers, they may as well be the kings, they should read history for the lesson that a subordinate who has become a power addict is usually decapitated by an irate people," she said.

In a privilege speech, Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said the President had no one to blame but herself for the apparent arrogance of the Armed Forces.

GMA edicts emboldened AFP

Golez, who had served as Ms Arroyo's national security adviser, said that she "emboldened" the military by issuing Executive Order No. 464, which bars officials from attending congressional hearings without her permission, and Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country under a weeklong emergency.

These presidential directives "challenged the constitutional principle of civilian supremacy over the military," thus giving the AFP an excuse not to honor congressional summonses, said the lawmaker.

Interpellating Golez, Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta disagreed, saying he found it "reassuring" that the AFP insisted that its decision to keep the chain of command intact on Feb. 24 prevented the republic from disintegrating.

House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin and Lakas Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu criticized Senator Arroyo for saying that the President was now hostage to the military.

"Contrary to Joker's claim, the President is strongly assertive of her leadership," said Salapuddin.

'Old joke'

"Joker should show some respect to the AFP after it showed loyalty to their oath. They deserve more than a politician's tirade," said Cuenco.

"Palace hostage to the military? Of course not," said House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles. He said this had been a repeated refrain since the Marcos dictatorship. "It's an old joke."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the military was propping up the Arroyo administration but that did not mean it was running the government.

"The Constitution says the military is the protector of the state and the people and they are subject to the calls of the President to suppress lawless violence," it's in the Constitution. Joker has forgotten to read the Constitution," said Gonzalez. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgenio, Armand N. Nocum, Norman Bordadora and Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Media warned again: No special treatment

From page A1

should "police their ranks and be watchful of interest groups" that could use them to destabilize the government.

Also yesterday, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told reporters that he was investigating the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism for possible violation of the anti-wiretapping law by posting on its website the "Hello Garci" tapes purporting to show that fraud marked the May 2004 presidential election.

But in a statement, the PCIJ wondered how it could be in violation of the law when the same tapes had been played in Congress and even by Bunye in Malacañang.

It said it was "very disappointed" with Gonzalez's statements.

Fire them

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to fire the officials who had advised her to clamp down on the media.

Recto said the administration should stop harassing the press,

particularly the PCIJ, which, he said, was "instrumental" in Ms Arroyo's "rise to power."

"Don't listen to them, Madame President. The enemies of press freedom are the real enemies of democracy. To a large extent, this government rode on the coattails of the [PCIJ] exposés on the alleged Erap mansions," the senator said, referring to the series of PCIJ reports on the lifestyles of former President Joseph Estrada and his mistresses.

Beneficiary

"Those in the opposition then were applauding the PCIJ's sleuthing. But now that they're in power, they would like to put in prison the very same people they once put on the pedestal," he said.

Estrada was toppled by the Edsa uprising in January 2001, paving the way for Ms Arroyo's assumption of the presidency.

Recto said it could not be denied that the administration was "a beneficiary of the PCIJ's intrepid reporting."

"But when the same journalistic standards that the PCIJ had adhered to through the years were used in scrutinizing the new

government, those with newfound powers abhorred the exercise of a right they not so long ago extolled," he said.

Recto pointed out that "to his credit," Estrada would "only throw tantrums" every time the PCIJ came out with a new investigative piece.

"But this government wants to throw the entire PCIJ staff in jail," he said.

Citing sources, PCIJ executive director Sheila Coronel told the Senate on Tuesday that police had twice tried but failed to secure warrants to search the center's office in Quezon City, supposedly in connection with sedition charges being prepared against five of its members.

Clearance required

"If a search warrant is issued on the PCIJ, it will send a signal that it is open season for legitimate journalists," Coronel said.

Coronel's disclosure has prompted Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao to instruct his men to first clear all applications to search any media organization with his office.

"We don't want anybody applying for a warrant and then introducing themselves as policemen. We want to avoid incidents such as people saying they are cops [when they are not]," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdila, the PNP spokesperson.

No application

According to Coronel, sound engineer Jonathan Tiongco and three policemen asked Judge Alan Balot of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 76 to issue the search warrant but were turned down on March 10.

They tried again on March 13 but still failed to obtain a search warrant, she said.

But the PNP denied having applied for a warrant to search the PCIJ premises.

"There was also a person mentioned, a certain Tiongco. He is not in any way connected with the police," Pagdila said.

He also said the PNP and the National Press Club had earlier agreed that the latter would be informed of any impending arrest of a member of the media.

Lawyer Wendell Ramiteri, clerk of court of Quezon City RTC

Branch 76, denied that an application for a warrant to search the PCIJ office had been filed there.

PCIJ chief counsel Sandra Coronel confirmed this, saying she checked with the court on Tuesday and was told that no such application for a search warrant was filed on Monday.

Tiongco also denied involvement in the matter. He said in a text message: "Wala akong part diyan (I don't have a part there). I just accompanied a friend who was involved. I did not apply, and I can't because I'm a civilian. Police lang ang pwede mag-apply (Only the police can apply)."

Crackdown

Pagdila said the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management had also checked and concluded that no police unit tried to secure a warrant to search the PCIJ office.

A check with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group likewise yielded nothing, according to Pagdila.

As part of the crackdown that resulted from Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency on Feb. 24—ostensibly to

thwart what she said was a conspiracy between communists and military officers to topple her administration—police raided the offices of The Daily Tribune.

Soldiers were also deployed to two leading television stations, ostensibly to guard them from attacks by plotters.

The President lifted Proclamation No. 1017 a week later, but the raid on the newspaper office and other moves were criticized by various global press watchdogs, which accused her of muzzleing the media.

In a statement issued on March 9, the Asian Journalists Association (AJA) declared "our solidarity with our fellow media practitioners in the Philippines" in the struggle to uphold democracy and press freedom.

The Seoul-based AJA called on "the authorities to stop intimidating journalists and media organizations."

"We urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to respect the professional right and duty of our fellow journalists to report political events without fear or favor," it said. *Reports from AFP Philip G. Tubesa, and Lulge A. del Puerto*



DEPOSIT: Former Sen. Loren Legarda displays the check for P3.38 million to add to her deposit at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal for the vote recount in relation to her electoral protest against Vice President Noli de Castro.

REM ZAMORA

US Marines' arraignment set March 24

OLONGAPO CITY—The arraignment of four US Marines charged with raping a 22-year-old Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport last year has been set for March 24.

In a one-page order issued yesterday, Judge Renato Dilag said both the complainant, a native of Zamboanga City, and the accused would be required to appear in his court for the arraignment starting at 9 a.m.

It will be the first time that the accused—Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpen-

tier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis—and the complainant will face each other since the alleged rape in a moving van at the Subic port on Nov. 1, 2005.

The soldiers are being held in the compound of the US Embassy in Manila.

In a letter dated Nov. 16, 2005, the Philippine government formally sought custody of the soldiers. But embassy officials, citing the Visiting Forces

Agreement between US governments, rejected the request.

idac
The New Split Type Aircon

Wall-Mounted 1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000

Floor Mounted 3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000

Free Installation!

Call: 2432610, 2414731

Available @ MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas
Cebu (032) 3465498 Davao (082) 2358821

Loren shells out P3.4M more for recount

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER SEN. LOREN LEGARDA yesterday deposited P3.38 million more with the Supreme Court to fund the recount of votes in her electoral protest against Vice President Noli de Castro, bringing to P7.96 million the amount of money she has shelled out since the recount started last December.

At the same time, Legarda asked the court, which also acts as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, to speed up the revision of votes to resolve the crisis of leadership gripping the country.

Legarda made the additional deposit in compliance with an or-

der from the tribunal for it to complete the recount of votes cast in at least 24,000 precincts in 44 provinces and cities which she has contested. Legarda claims she won in these precincts over De Castro, who has denied charges that he cheated in the May 2004 national elections.

At its present stage, the recount covers the provinces of Cebu, Pampanga, Maguindanao, and Lanao del Sur.

Legarda deposited P4.08 million as the recount got under way last December and made another deposit of P500,000 last week.

"I have put squarely behind this election protest my very limited resources so the Filipino peo-

ple may take back what was stolen in the 2004 election," she said. "While the recount has not reached halfway, I believe that at this point I have exposed the truth to the public—that De Castro's questionable hold on the vice presidency was truly propped by electoral fraud."

In the Lanao del Sur retabulation, Legarda manifested to the PET the alleged spuriousness of the returns retrieved from Congress.

She pointed out that while she won in Lanao del Sur based on copies of the returns from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), the

returns from Congress showed she had lost.

She said the discovery of allegedly forged returns was consistent with persistent reports that administration operatives had switched returns under the custody of the House of Representatives in January and February last year.

Aside from the "bogus returns" from Congress, the setting aside of 60 percent of the ballots from Cebu thus far examined due to questions of authenticity refutes claims by President Macapagal-Arroyo, De Castro and their lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, that the elections were clean and honest, Legarda said.

After 1017, GMA rating still very low

DISTRUST OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO remained at their lowest level in five years after she declared a state of emergency to thwart an alleged conspiracy by her political enemies to overthrow her, a survey showed yesterday.

Pollster Pulse Asia said 50 percent of 1,200 respondents said they disapproved of Ms Arroyo in the group's most recent survey, down from 52 percent in October last year, while 26 percent said they approved of the President, compared to 24 percent in October.

The survey, conducted between Feb. 18 and March 4, has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Ms Arroyo declared emergency rule on Feb. 24 after announcing a coup plot by disgruntled soldiers, communist rebels and civilian backers. During the weeklong emergency, her administration carried out a series of warrantless arrests targeting critics and left-wing lawmakers, banned rallies and raided an opposition newspaper.

"Despite the continuing efforts to unseat President Arroyo and the various controversies that still hound her administration as well as the Arroyo administration's policies and programs to win the support of the general public, local government officials, the military and police ... the president's overall performance and trust ratings in March 2006 are practically unchanged from the October 2005 levels," Pulse Asia said.

Reports by AP and Reuters

Deputy Ombudsman won't fade quietly

By Nelson F. Flores

THIS OVERALL DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN will not fade quietly into retirement.

Claiming that the Office of the Ombudsman has lost its prestige and independence since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. has dared Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to prove that she was not out to protect Ms Arroyo and her allies by immediately resolving charges involving them.

"We were never the same again after Ombudsman Aniano Desierto. The office had lost its aggressiveness and its public appeal. It has lost its rapport with the civil society. It should be spared from politics," he said.

Gervacio, who officially retires this week, is an appointee of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

The 68-year-old Gervacio said his 22 years of service with the Ombudsman was very fruitful. He said that it was his retirement wish that the office regain its old glory as an independent and politics-free anti-graft prosecutorial body.

Desierto retired in 2002 and Ms Arroyo appointed lawyer

Simeon Marcelo, who came into prominence as one of the prosecution lawyers in the impeachment trial of Estrada, to replace him.

Marcelo, citing health reasons, quit the post last year amid speculations that he resigned because of pressure from Malacañang on a graft case involving a Palace ally.

Ms Arroyo appointed Gutierrez to replace Marcelo late last year.

Gervacio said Gutierrez should prove that she is not under the Palace thumb by resolving the charges against the President, former justice secretary Hernando Perez, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and former agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante.

President Arroyo has been accused of allegedly misusing the funds from the road users tax, the Overseas Worker Welfare Administration and the fertilizer support program.

Perez has been accused of bribery and graft. Abalos has been linked to the allegedly anomalous Comelec computerization program while Bolante has been implicated in the multimillion-peso fertilizer funds scam.

PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS
for HEAVY-DUTY CLEANING
High Pressure Washer & Vacuum Cleaners
NOW AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Delivery/Installation Up To 24 Hrs.
Cebu City Office: 244-3328 • 244-3329 • 244-3330
MANILA: 1851 E. Divisadero St., Makati, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY: 646 Quezon Avenue
Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS

ELITE 1000 PSI / 3.0 HP / 1.1 IN / 12.0 IN
X-PRO 2200 PSI / 5.7 HP / 1.1 IN / 12.0 IN
WM 2111 2200 PSI / 5.0 HP / 1.1 IN / 11.0 IN

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC

The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) will decrease from P0.37 per cubic meter to P0.09 effective April 1, 2006 based on exchange rate of P51.82 per US Dollar.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism used by utility companies that is adjusted upwards to recover losses if the peso depreciates and downwards if the peso appreciates against other currencies. Manila Water has to continue paying for the foreign exchange denominated concession fees to the MWSS, as well as loans required for its service expansion and improvement.

The FCDA was approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 06-003-CA dated March 9, 2006 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2006-067 dated March 9, 2006.

Manila Water Company, the East Zone concessionaire covers the following areas: Manila (San Andres and Sta. Ana only), Quezon City (east of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mindanao Ave., Districts of Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo and Mandalang Balara), Makati City (east of South Super Highway), Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, Taguig — all in Metro Manila; Rizal Province.

LUCKY 7 GRAND OPEN HOUSE!!!
March 19, 2006

The Fastest Selling, Best Value-For-Money Condo in the Country!

30 SQM Semi-Finished Units for as low as P640,800
"Total Cost, No Extra Fees"

SPAZIO BERNARDO
The Art of Quality Living

Champana Street, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City
Just 5 Minutes from the MRT SM North Terminal.
From Makati take EDSA upon reaching SM City North turn right into Mindanao Ave. pass Congressional Building turn left into Champana St. (marked HBC SPLASH)

PHINMA
PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP.
City Living Made Easy
812-PPHC (7742)
0917-812-PPHC (7742)
0922-812-PPHC (7742)
www.spaziobernardo.com

Call our Lead Marketing Agents:
Boomland Realty: 939-7336
Granwood Realty: 929-8584

Nene to Joker: What blabbering?

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO PIMENTEL Jr. yesterday took exception to a colleague's comment that the opposition was just "blabbering" away while President Macapagal-Arroyo was allegedly kowtowing more and more to the military.

In a privilege speech, Pimentel said the minority was disputing Sen. Joker Arroyo's description of their criticism of the President as mere "blabbering," adding that the opposition had raised serious cases of anomalies against the administration.

"That is not blabbering. That is not idle talk. That is not spreading gossip. Our talk is anchored on fact," Pimentel said. "Indeed, we are talking, arguing, ranting against the Arroyo administration. But we cite specific cases of anomalies and wrongdoing of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo specifically to prove our point."

Pimentel was reacting to a statement by Arroyo that the President was hostage to the military, whom she was now consulting before every move while the opposition "just keeps on blabbering."

Pimentel said that the opposition had raised serious allegations, like the P728 million fertilizer fund scam and the controversial North Rail Project and strongly protested her proclamation of a state of national emergency, among other things.

"And when we raise the specter of (the President's) demented assertion that she is the state, that is not blabbering in any manner," he said.

Corrections

IN THE FEB. 11 ISSUE, an Entertainment story on Page A2—"Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner as lovers"—misstated Gardner's home state. The actress was born and raised in North Carolina—not Texas.

IN THE MARCH 9 ISSUE, a front-page story—"LPG shows poverty now wears a woman's face"—misstated the name of the group that conducted the study regarding LPG and women. The study was conducted by the Center for Women's Resources (CWR)—not the Center for Women's Studies (CWS). The story also misstated the name of CWR's executive director. The CWR executive director is Mary Joan Guan—not Mary Jane Guan.

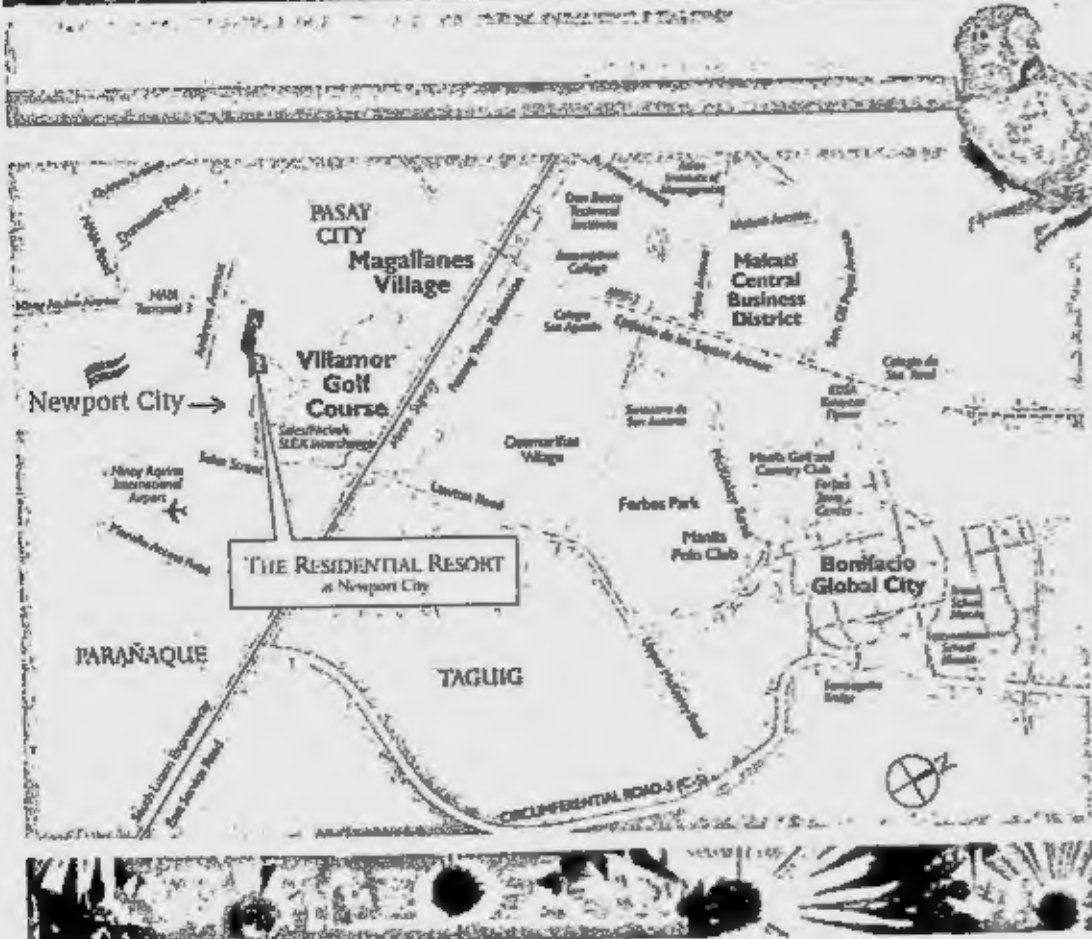
IN THE MARCH 10 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Fantastic role model, trailblazer, buried today"—erroneously reported that Estefania Aldaba-Lim was the first female Cabinet member. According to the National Historical Institute, Asuncion Arriola-Perez headed the Social Welfare Administration during President Elpidio Quirino's term, earlier than Aldaba-Lim's stint which was from 1971 to 1977. Arriola-Perez's position carried a Cabinet rank.

IN THE MARCH 14 ISSUE, a story on Page A13—"Judge to resume Subic rape case hearing"—misstated that in the years when the United States operated the Subic and Clark military bases, US military personnel charged with offenses were not tried by Philippine courts. American offenders at that time were not just court-martialed. Some were even sentenced to prison terms by local courts, like American sailor Michael Carpaneto, who was sentenced to a two-month prison term for hitting two Filipino journalists in April 1989.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Rocas Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

The Resort Experience.



Own this
2-bedroom unit
for as low as
P23,000
a month.



Meet in a five-star hotel • Play golf • Unwind in a spa • Work out
Dine on East-West cuisine • Shop and play
Experience it all in a resort-in-the-city that is your home •

Sarasota

The newest phase of
The Residential Resort at Newport City
The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences
Gozar Street, Newport City, Pasay City

Live everyday a fresh new way, with a feeling of adventure and fun, in your home within a resort. Right next to...

the Marriott Hotel...



Where you can experience five-star luxury any time of day. Here, 350 elegantly appointed rooms are matched by business centers and luxurious leisure amenities.

a modern Fitness Center...



The whole family will enjoy hours of healthy recreation with first-rate amenities including a gym, adult and children's swimming pools, tennis and badminton courts and landscaped play areas.

the Villamor Golf Course...



A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 green. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the sprawling landscape.

a luxurious indoor Spa...

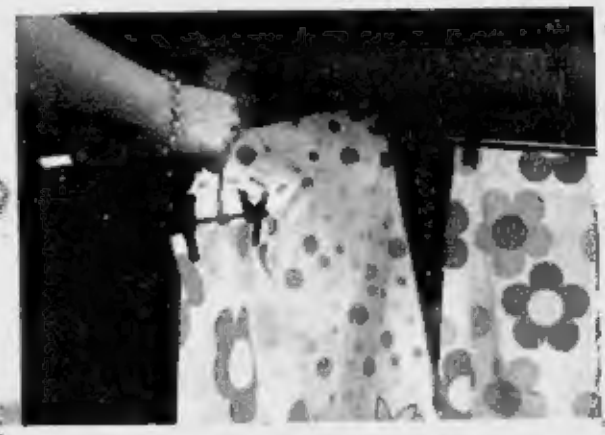


Where you can unwind amid top-notch therapeutic facilities, heat and exercise pools and aromatherapy and massage rooms.

and a themed Dining, Shopping and Entertainment Complex.



Explore a streetscape of international restaurants, stylish boutiques and alfresco cafés with live performances—all within walking distance from home.



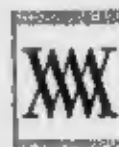
At Sarasota, discover the privileges of living close to nature in a Mediterranean-style resort setting inspired by Lake Las Vegas. Choose from an executive studio, 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom home, with wide windows and balconies.

The elegant, earth-toned residential buildings are no more than 9 stories high, so air can flow freely. Each building boasts its own lobby and ample basement parking. Aside from a guarded entrance gate, a tree-lined perimeter fence encloses the entire community. The interior roads are wide and made safe for children.

And the homes are clustered around the play amenities, making it easy for neighbors to get together at the lap pool, putting green, fitness station or tennis court. Or at the sitting area and the aviary with benches. Children, too, will enjoy hours of fun in their own pool and play areas.

Have a taste of the unique resort experience at Sarasota.
Join us on **March 19, Sunday, 9 AM to 5 PM,**
at the **Newport City Grand Showroom.**

Exclusive Marketing Arm:



Megaworld Newport
Property Holdings, Inc.

Newport City Information Centre, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

(632) 855-7580 • 855-7583 • 855-7594 • 855-7586

For Advertisement Purposes Only

ISSN
0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 21 No. 98

OPINION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer.opi@inquirer.com or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at:
 • Cines Room 5th corner Yaguez and Mastara Sts., Makati City
 • P.O. Box 2253 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-8806 connecting all departments
 • Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
 • Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0163 /
 528-0186 and 528-8213 / Fax: 528-0234
 • Circulation Customer Service Hotline 896-6088



Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANO
Managing Editor JOSE M. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENRIQUETA JR. • **Chief, News Day Desk** NILO B. FAUON
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ABUTA
National Editor PERCINTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SANTIAGO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ENRIE U. SANTIAGO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLANBA
Board Chairman MARIO R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
 readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Subversion

A VIGIL WAS HELD IN THE OFFICES OF THE National Union of Journalists of the Philippines last Tuesday. Earlier that day, a TV crew from GMA-7 network had arrived, after their news desk was tipped off that soldiers would raid the premises of the journalists' advocacy group. Some NUJP members remained on the premises until 11 p.m. that night, just in case. Mercifully, the raid never came. A raid was also rumored to be in the works, this time at the offices of Newsbreak Magazine.

EDITORIAL

That didn't take place, either.

The former was based on a credible source; the latter, just a sign of how jittery the situation has gotten, particularly since Newsbreak is coming out with photographs showing the alleged doctored election documents.

A search warrant that would have allowed government agents to go through the offices of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism also wasn't produced that Tuesday—though not for lack of trying. Quezon City policemen, according to the PCIJ, went to two different judges and were refused each time. While surprisingly no records exist to show such requests were made, one of the PCIJ's lawyers (the sister of PCIJ head Sheila Coronel) saw policemen at one judge's sala in the company of a citizen who has filed cases against the PCIJ in the past (only to be rebuffed by the Supreme Court).

As the saying goes, there is more than one way to skin a cat. President Macapagal-Arroyo made it explicit in her proclamation of a state of national emergency that she considered media as a threat to her stay in office. Though she has nominally put an end to her state of emergency and its accompanying orders, she has also called for "one comprehensive, continuing sweep" against her enemies or, as she loftily calls them, "the enemies of the state." The sweep is not necessarily a frontal assault, but an effort aimed at achieving through other means what the law forbids: the stifling not only of dissent but of criticism. The administration policy, in a word, is subversion.

There is no other word which properly defines what the administration has set out to do to the media that will not unquestioningly sing its praises. There is no other way to describe what the President's civilian, police and military officials are doing: jabbing, feinting, stabbing, probing to see who will fold simply by being at the receiving end of words and outlandish accusations, or who will stand firm and perhaps require more bare-knuckled measures.

It is fair enough—indeed, it is to be expected and demanded—that media be held accountable for what they publish and broadcast. Not only officials, but also the public, are expected to assert their rights and defend their honor if aggrieved or unjustly maligned. It is proper to ask media to make sure their mechanisms for accountability and action function. It is every citizen's right to resort to the courts for relief, if necessary.

The subversion that is taking place, however, aims at thought control. To force journalists to fret over the integrity of their right to privacy, their freedom of communication, their freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, is to force them into a situation that no citizen of the country, regardless of profession, should have to endure. The constant state of disquiet and even alarm resulting from this is not only a disservice to an independent profession, it is an attack on the broader liberties that are guaranteed as rights, not privileges, by the Constitution.

Under what circumstances would a raid on the premises of a journalists' association be justified? And since when does a democratic government's police ask the courts for a warrant to search the offices of journalists for materials that are "subversive," considering how subversion can be so very broadly interpreted? To do their jobs, journalists must talk to many people, and read all sorts of things. Are they to be subjected to persecution because of their reading and interview choices? By any definition this is prior restraint.

Yet the Constitution says there shall be no prior restraint on media. But so much for the Constitution. The real guide of the administration is its list—the trademark fetish of every totalitarian regime waiting to be born. Justice Secretary Gonzalez says the list includes five PCIJ journalists being watched. For what? For sedition, he says. And all along we thought the only way to watch a writer was to read what he wrote.



When the jokes stop

PHILIPPINE JOKE ABOUT EVERYTHING, EVEN our flaws, like short attention spans and truncated memories.

"Political jokes are a way of coping and reflect a certain level of collective anxiety about public affairs," Steven Lukes of Balliol College, Oxford and Itzhak Galnoor of Hebrew University assert in their book: "No Laughing Matter."

"In a society where the level of political joking is usually high, it may be time to worry when the joking stops," they say.

But wisecracks in an open society and in a dictatorship differ. Anyone can text a joke about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada and others. But few remember that a wisecrack against Marcos and his "Rolex 12" officers courted a beating, detention—or both.

We hurt so much, then we laughed. Could coup-titillated generals learn something from the jokes whispered then?

Under Proclamation 1081, journalists like Chino Roces, Amando Doronila and Napoleon Rama were arrested at dawn. This led to the "Happiness 12" joke: Happiness is when soldiers bang your doors at 2 a.m., you open, and tell them: "Wrong address. The person you're looking for lives next door."

Then, there was the security guard who told the late Business Day publisher Raul Locsin: "Sir, may problema tayo aso (Sir, we have a problem with the dog)."

"Then feed him," Locsin snapped.

"Sir," the guard replied: "Yung aso ay arrest-and-seizure-order."

The late Gen. Fabian Ver arrested a man for anti-Marcos jokes. The detainee gazed at Marcos' plush room with admiration. "Mmmmm," he said. "You don't live too badly."

"Well, what of it?" Marcos snapped. "After 25 years of the 'New Society' everybody will live like this."

"Aha!" the prisoner said. "A new joke."

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



Recall the question that Ver asked 57 colonels angling for a general's star: "Colonel, how much is two plus two?" All 57 answered: "four." All were told: "Wrong." Finally, the 58th interviewee—a major—enters. "Major, how much is two plus two?" asked Ver. "Two for you, sir and two for me," he replied. "Correct, colonel. Now, the President will see you."

Marcos asked the same question: "How much is two plus two?" "Simple, Mr. President. Two plus two equals four—and all for you, sir."

"Raise your right hand, general," Marcos ordered.

We were attending a Tagaytay seminar on economic indicators, shortly after our Camp Crame detention. The amiable Gen. J. Campos presided. Martial law was new and people were cautious. Still, I couldn't resist cracking this joke:

A crowded bus bound for Baguio enters the North Expressway from Quezon City. A passenger taps another and politely asks: "Are you in the Army?" The man says no. In Hagonoy, Bulacan, the former asks another question: "You're in the Navy then?" Same answer, no. In Angeles, Pampanga, another question: "Then you're with the Marines?" No, the second man replies. Nearing Tarlac, the first man asks: "You're with the Air Force?" "No," was once more the emphatic reply. "In that case, get off my bloody foot," he explodes.

As the academics broke out in uncertain laughter, I added: "Be careful, my wife cau-

tioned when I drove over. So, general, sir, I was just kidding."

The later years saw another joke. Four people were arrested for beating a military officer. At the police station, the young pretty lady stated the officer tried to mash her. She was released. The other two were the lady's father and brother. They, too, were released. The remaining prisoner, a young student, had by then turned pale. "Is that the only reason?" he wailed. "I thought there had been a change in the regime."

Today's reports say the plotters claim they'd "rescue the people." Two mothers were chatting.

First mother: "We are lucky."

Second mother: "Are you crazy?"

First mother: "They are coming as our rescuers. Think what they'd have done if they came as enemies."

Depending on who told it, it was either Imelda or a Filipino general in the joke on visiting a corrupt Asian general's penthouse.

"Let's be frank," he whispers into the ear of his host. "I know your Army salary. So, how can you afford all this?" he asks, pointing to the luxurious appointments.

The host leads the general to the terrace and, pointing to the horizon, asks: "Do you see those two mountains?" He nods. "Do you see that bridge between them?" He nods again. "Twenty percent," is the reply.

In a courtesy return visit, the Filipino is host at his residence. "Let's be frank," the visitor whispers into the ear of his host. "Given your salary, how can you afford all this?" At the terrace, the general points to the horizon and asks: "See those two mountains?" The man nods. "Do you see that bridge between them?" The puzzled man protests: "But there's no bridge!" And the reply is: "One hundred percent."

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Cry freedom

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



The institutions of society all conspired to make them invisible and mute. They were there, but they could not be seen or heard. The Negroes fought back spontaneously with music, though they were never aware at first they were fighting back. The Blues were an instinctive cry of pain that issued from the bowels of the Delta, which took explosive and structured form in the communal ululations of choir and congregation alike in Sunday service. As Lomax says, you cannot understand the power of gospel music until you hear one in the original place it was sung, in church. He did, for the first time in the 1930s, and the hair in his body stood on end.

That's where modern popular music comes from, the Blues. Elvis Presley, the poor boy from Tupelo, Mississippi, merely took the sounds and rhythms he heard around him as a child and hurled them back at the world. The result was rock-and-roll, the genre that came to dominate popular music in the latter half of the 20th century. And counting. Of course with its being discovered by the teenyboppers of the 1950s and its dangerous or subversive edge sandpapered by the mainstream white community it was thrust into, there's very little of it today to suggest its grief-stricken origins. Or how it began, as a cry to be seen and heard, to feel through numb bodies, to experience being human.

Music is the loudest whisper there is, whether it's sobbing out lost love or lost liberty. There's a purity to it that arrests you, that seizes you where you stand, and compels you to listen.

I remember some years ago someone writing to complain that the American public tended to believe popular musicians more than

public officials. He wondered why that was so when many popular musicians were not even high school graduates. His premise at least was borne out by several recent polls that said the public distrusted politicians most and trusted teachers and artists most. The first, the surveys said, were most apt to lie, the second the most apt to tell the truth.

Well, the truth that musicians and artists tell, which is why they are believed even without a high school diploma, goes beyond the truth of events to the truth about the human plight. When the human condition is agony and pain, music lets out a yelp that echoes across the length and breadth of heaven and earth and shatters the ramparts of oppression. That is what we will issue today from the pit of the Sunken Garden in the University of the Philippines—a cry of pain that, like Joshua's trumpets, will break down the walls of dictatorship. We shall overcome.

The final list of performers tonight in order of appearance is: Chin Chin Gutierrez, Crazy as Pinoy Affinity, Isha, Noli Aurillo, Carol and Sammy (of Pinikpikan), Susan Fernandez, Noel Cabangon, True Faith, Reggae Mistress, The Jerks, Session Road, Brownman Revival, Up Dharna Down, Gindling Festival, Paramita, Grasspice, Radioactive Sago, Twisted Halo, Bobby Balingit/Juan Isip, Cynthia Alexander, Willie Nepomuceno, Leah Navarro, Dong Abay and Popoy Diokno, Color It Red with Tots Tolentino, Pinwheel, Bridge, Hemp Republic, Coffeebreak Island, Agaw Agimat, Tropical Depression, Datu's Tribe, Village Idiots, Lost in the Veins.

I thank all of them from the bottom of my heart. To repeat, the concert is absolutely free. It is open to everyone whatever their creed, (preferred) gender, age and musical taste. It starts at 5:30 p.m. We start on time to allow some of the artists to hie off to their paying gigs afterward. I'm hoping for a star-filled night sky to go with our star-filled twilight cry. But just to be sure, bring umbrellas.

Cry struggle. Cry freedom. Cry fun.

Cost of destabilization

IF THE PEOPLE HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN THE political opposition as it hammers at the "illegitimacy" of the Arroyo administration, the reason may be gleaned from the recent tiff between Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Jambay Madrigal. Enrile claims that he overheard Madrigal talking at the height of the 2004 campaign to someone over the phone and expressing her willingness to pay any amount so long as she lands among the top five winners. After the elections, there was a lot of talk about how the fierce race for the "Magic 12" senators had boiled down to paying the right price. Madrigal was among those rumored to have allegedly bought her victory. Thus, to many people, the allegation about GMA cheating was no big deal. "Lahat naman sila nandaya."

My radio partner, executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, flew to Lisbon, Portugal, last March 4 to attend the World Arts Education Congress. The week-long high-level conference was attended by over 1,000 delegates from around the world, including some prominent names in education, culture and the arts, led by Unesco Director General Koichiro Matsuura and Portugal's President Anibal Antonio Cavaco Silva. Cecile's artists, led by director and playwright Frank Rivera and blind pianist-singer Rico del Rosario, made a big impact on the delegates from over 100 nations, who are expected to fly to Manila for the 31st International Theater Institute Conference from May 22 to 28 this year. It will be a big honor for RRA as it will be the first time this biennial event, which will be attended by various Nobel laureates, will be held in Southeast Asia. Cecile Alvarez worked so hard for this honor in Paris two years ago.

The coup attempt in Manila, however, had caused the delegates in Lisbon enormous worry. Cecile had to spend a lot of effort to assure them that the situation was stable. That's how much destabilization hurts our country.

While taipans hog the headlines, the 655,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country account for 99 percent of all businesses

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



here, providing 69 percent of employment and contributing 32 percent to the economy. This explains why the government has been giving them extra attention. In November last year, then Land Bank president Margarito Teves reported that the bank's total outstanding loans to micro-enterprises and SMEs have grown steadily over the past five years. As of September, these loans reached P18 billion, a 7 percent increase from the P16.9 billion loans for the same period in 2004, with P16.2 billion going to SMEs.

Another boon to SMEs was the recent inauguration of the Business Technology Center at the Department of Trade's Regional Operations Group Office in Makati. The center was set up as a "one-stop shop" to help SMEs gain access to business expertise and technology that would help them modernize their operations and make them more efficient and globally competitive. It will operate as a close partnership between government and the private sector, which will make facilities and expertise available. As explained by Trade Undersecretary Carissa Cruz, the government's participation involves the DTI, with its five-point action strategy for job generation and raising incomes, and the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICIT), chaired by Virgilio L. Peña, whose mission is to promote and develop strategic ICT systems and reliable communication facilities and services. The private sector is represented by Intel, Microsoft and PLDT.

As Cruz and Peña explained, the center will take the SMEs from step one, if necessary, i.e., away from the *lista-lista* system, to the use of IT technology for profit, through skills-build-

ing seminars. They will learn how to use PCs and such productivity tools as the e-mail, Internet and broadband technology, and how to automate their inventory and accounting management. The learning sessions, which can accommodate 10 persons each, are for free. They are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. Interested parties can call 896-3172.

Paging Air Transport Office area manager Alan Java. My sister-in-law, interior designer Sonia Santiago-Olivares, was in Iloilo City recently with a colleague, Jose Ma. Hubilla, to visit the University of San Agustin as a requirement of the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC). Hubilla chairs the PRC board of examiners in interior design, with Sonia and interior designer Tony Adriano as members. When she got to Manila, Sonia called me up to express dismay over the Iloilo airport ladies' room. The cubicle for the disabled was tied up with a straw string, another cubicle had no door, and the only functioning one was dirty. One had to fetch water with a dirty can. By contrast, she found the Bacolod airport's ladies' room well-maintained.

Sonia said the interior designers are willing to help design for free a decent restroom for the Iloilo airport. But she also noted signs all over the Iloilo terminal that said the air-conditioners were donated by Senate President Franklin Drilon. Did Drilon spend his personal funds for them? she queried. If he spent his CDF, she said, those signs should be removed.

I myself noted the horrible condition of the airport's ladies' room when I went to Antigua via Iloilo to deliver a talk on Evelio Javier's 20th death anniversary last Feb. 11. One reason may be that a new airport is being built in Sta. Barbara. But this is no excuse for the current deplorable condition, especially since I learned that President Macapagal-Arroyo recently met with hotel and tourism leaders in Iloilo on her desire to fully develop the tourism potential of Panay Island to complement Boracay. I wish GMA saw that ladies' room.

PCIJ under siege

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



Interviewed by GMA-7 reporter Sandra Aguinaldo, Tiongo only said that the hearing had been cancelled. The clerk of court, meanwhile, told Aguinaldo that there was no hearing, only an application for a search warrant.

"The PCIJ was unable to get a copy of the charge sheet, but its lawyers believe that the case is linked to the one filed by Tiongo against the PCIJ late last year. In that case, filed before the Department of Justice, Tiongo said that the PCIJ should be charged with 'inciting to sedition' for posting on (its) blog the 'Hello, Garci' recording containing the allegedly wiretapped conversations between former elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and several officials, including possibly President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"In that petition, which was ignored by the justice department, Tiongo alleged that the posting of the audio recordings led the opposition to call for the President's resignation and impeachment and encouraged civil society groups to hold rallies against the President.

"Since the last quarter of 2005, Tiongo and his wife Rona have filed two libel cases against the PCIJ for publishing on (the PCIJ) blog extracts of a police dossier that lists a string of criminal cases filed against him. Rona Tiongo has also sued the PCIJ for violation of her right to privacy. In addition, Jonathan Tiongo has filed a falsification charge against the Center. He also asked, but failed, to get the Supreme Court to issue an injunction against the posting of the 'Hello, Garci' recording on the PCIJ blog. Tiongo has also sued ABS-CBN for libel, wiretapping and falsification.

"On Nov. 4, Quezon City Judge Ralph S. Lee issued a 20-day temporary restraining order on the

PCIJ blog on the request of Rona Tiongo, who said that the Aug. 12, 2005 post on her husband violated her privacy and that of her children. Mrs. Tiongo, however, was never mentioned by name in that post.

Jonathan Tiongo has been linked to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, who presented the sound engineer in a press conference last Aug. 12, in a bid to question the authenticity of the 'Hello, Garci' recording. In a telephone interview with the PCIJ (last Monday), Defensor denied any knowledge of the search warrant against the PCIJ.

"There are certain media personalities against whom cases of inciting to sedition will be filed," he said, but "PCIJ is not one of them." He said that the only relationship he had with Tiongo was that press conference last year. "I want this clear, we're not together politically," he said. "He is more aligned with the opposition. He even filed cases against (former police chief Hermogenes) Ebdane and (former Cabinet secretary and chief of staff Angelo) Reyes."

"When asked whether an inciting to sedition charge ought to be filed against the PCIJ for posting the wiretapped recordings, Defensor said, 'I was the one who said it's no use stopping the release of the Garci tape.'

"In an Oct. 11, 2005 ruling, the Supreme Court threw out Tiongo's petition demanding that the PCIJ take down the 'Hello, Garci' recording from (its) blog. The high tribunal asserted that the constitutional right to free expression was paramount. 'Free expression is guaranteed by the Constitution,' the Supreme Court said. 'Any deviation from this rule through judicial restraint can only be had after a proper trial of facts.'

"The Supreme Court also described Tiongo's petition as 'barely comprehensible' and 'bereft of merit.'

When the search warrant is served (today?) and the search is carried out, I will be present as a member of the PCIJ board. But what is it that the searchers hope to find?

Send feedback to ceresp@trfco.com.ph

Filipino first

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



RASHEED ABOU-ALSAMH, MY EDITOR IN THE Arab News, who also writes a column ("Manila Moods") for INQ7.net, correctly mentioned in one of his recent columns, that I "despised (Rep. Crispin) Beltran for having supported the bloody Chinese repression of the Tiananmen Square protests." However, if I despise anything more than the act of publicly defending repression, it's what Beltran and five other members of the House of Representatives are being subjected to, now—political repression.

Voltaire said he would defend the right of people he disagreed with to say what they wanted—to the death. What a person believes, and thinks, can never be a crime; otherwise our prisons would be filled with novelists and essayists who express the darkest, the harshest and, often, the bloodiest, thoughts concerning our society. Ruzal was thrown into prison for revealing what he believed to be the country's "social cancer."

You cannot imprison someone for believing that Marx, Engels, Lenin and Mao have the answers to everything, just as you cannot lock someone up for asserting that the Bible or the Koran contains the solution to all of life's—and society's—problems. To do so—presuming one disagrees with Communists or Catholics or Muslims—is to turn the believer into an instant martyr, the highest calling for any person of faith or convictions. It would be like a scientist calling for the imprisonment of a monk, which would be just as condemnable as the clergy of old who called for certain scientists to be suppressed by the Church.

Beltran, Lisa Maza, Satur Ocampo, Joel Viador, Teodoro Casiho and Rafael Mariano represent a constituency that not only clearly exists, but is also entitled to representation. They adhere to a political orientation that has every right to be expressed and can claim a particular right to be heard, considering how they claim to represent the downtrodden and dispossessed. You may believe that they are unfairly asserting political rights while their comrades continue to wage an active war against the state that they (Beltran et

al.) are sworn to uphold. They can just as easily counter that it is unfair to judge them while ignoring the widespread poverty and social conditions that lead people to revolt against authority. In the first place.

But the facts are these: they are elected—and in a more legitimate and unquestionable manner than, say, the President. They represent a constituency which, like any constituency, deserves representation. What they believe, or read, or espouse, is not criminal, according to our present laws; and that the laws of the land exist just as much for their protection as they do for the protection of those who disagree with them.

To say a Marxist deserves inferior treatment under our laws; to rationalize the liquidation of the organizers and leaders of dissident groups on the basis of their political beliefs—never mind if they aren't even actively fighting in the field; to excuse the stripping away of their rights under the Constitution and the laws, on the assumption they wouldn't respect either once they gain power—all these serve to prove the rightness of their cause and not the cause of those who have a different vision for our country and society.

Does it offend to see them demanding that the law be scrupulously applied, that they be accorded the fullest due process? It should offend more that anyone in a democratic republic would consider giving them anything less under our present system. Does it matter that those who will not denounce armed revolution—as a means for achieving change—have the temerity to insist that a Republic, based on the peaceful exercise of dissent

and disobedience to tyranny, refrain from resorting to the methods of a dictatorship, which both socialists and democrats have fought against, in their own ways? Of course not. It doesn't matter.

It is our common obligation to give them that which we might suspect them of wanting to deny us, should they ever acquire absolute power. Indeed, to give them the full benefit of the protections guaranteed by a liberal democratic order, each and every time, is the surest guarantee our democracy will survive and flourish.

We can always agree to disagree on politics, on ideology, on dogma. But we should never disagree on according each other the right to think what we think, write what we want to write, express what we want to express, and most of all, engage each other in debate. The one who pulls out a gun or a truncheon to settle a discussion loses that discussion: because then, the only debate left is to what extent one will cooperate with one's jailer. It's not much of a debate—or a life one should wish on anyone. Particularly in a society which has jails filled with people denied justice.

I am developing a kind of impatience, too, with those carping on the presence of the usual, notorious suspects at protests against the President, as an alibi for staying uninvolved. It's not as if these people are overflowing with love and admiration for the President; more often than not, their opinion of God's gift to our country is pretty low.

There is a discomfort to be felt when, in a meeting supposedly in defense of good things, one sees people whom they perceive to be not "good people." Of course. However, it is more uncomfortable to realize that the result of that discomfort would be the perpetuation of a leadership which a broad consensus sees unfit to retain leadership.

What is the price of abandoning the field to those whom one dislikes as much as the present government? The inevitability of those already hungry, already devoid of hope, already filled with hatred for a system that can't feed, clothe and educate them, to reach for a weapon and head for the hills.

Chipmunk

TM WRITING THIS WHILE WAITING FOR YET ANOTHER take-out meal for my pseudo-boyfriend and me. "Boyfriend" because he fits the job description; "pseudo" because he is married. We never eat out lest we get busted. You see, this pseudo-boyfriend of mine is also a national figure. Which is why I will never reveal my true identity, nor his. All I can tell you is, he reminds me of a chipmunk when he smiles.

This is our 41st dinner date in the last seven months. I never meant our relationship to last this long. I thought 5, 7, 10 dates would satiate my curiosity about going down the path I thought I'd never go. We all think we'd never sink to a certain level, but we subconsciously pile excuse upon excuse, until we have done what was once unthinkable.

Neither his power, his money, nor his looks is the reason I'm here inside a mall waiting for our dinner for the 41st time. I really do love him.

Right now, I'm sure wives who are reading this want to burn me alive. But there's the rub. I'd burn me alive, too. My mother is a victim, too. My father is cheating on her. It makes my blood curdle that he has the gall to step into our home, share meals on our table, and sleep under our roof after spending time with his mistress. He keeps telling my mother she's the only one. His sight makes me want to vomit. Yet here I am, taking part in the same game, with someone who is older than my father.

I don't think my Chipmunk is in the same situation. I have never asked him pointblank how things are between him and his wife. But the way he talks about going home, it's as if they were estranged. He sleeps alone but he sees his kids, two of whom are older than me.

He has told me he had a mistress before. It sounded like they weren't discreet. I thought this may be what broke up his marriage. Or perhaps this is the picture I've fabricated in my mind, my excuse for doing what was once unthinkable: I didn't break them up; they were broken before he found me.

Another justification is that his wife has already accepted their separation, unlike my father who lies through his teeth.

Excuses, excuses—they are the seeds of sin. We fall from grace soon after we believe the excuses we make to justify the means to achieve our end, whether it be money, power or love. Herein lies my internal conflict: I know I am wrong, but I continue to be wrong anyway.

In the movie "Troy," Menelaus says of Paris, the man who stole his wife Helen, "His every breath insults me." This is true of every mistress like me. Our every breath insults our mothers' wives. Our every breath insults our mothers. We spit on our mother every time we lie in our lovers' arms. Wouldn't it be poetic justice if someday, when we too are married, our husbands cheated on us? All ye mistresses, take heed.

I keep telling this to my best friend at work, who is also a mistress. But like me, she continues to be wrong anyway. We keep speculating on why our pseudo-boyfriends strayed. We keep asking what we could do to prevent our future husbands from doing the same thing.

To be a cheat-proof wife, do we have to be a Betty Crocker, a trusty best friend, a Kama Sutra expert and a porn starlet all rolled into one? Are all sperm-bearing homo sapiens, polygamous? Can marriage really last?

In our college *barkada* of eight, only two have parents who are still living together harmoniously, and whose fathers are, to the best of their knowledge, *kabit-less*. Is that the statistic now, three out of four husbands frolicking in extra-marital pastures? What girl in her right mind would want to marry in the face of these realities? Perhaps there is wisdom in my *barkada's* proposal that we all buy a beach-front property when our husbands fail us. Sea, sun, sand, and pedicures away from our gallivanting other-halfers.

But here comes the waiter, handing me the food and the bill which my Chipmunk will reimburse. We'll have dinner in his house. We'll laugh and talk about anything under the sun, but mostly we'll talk about his sordid world of politics. By the end of the night, his touch will melt me yet again. I'll lie in his arms, watch him sleep, play with his mole, listen to him snore like I've done so many times. And while he slumbers, I'll tell him I love him without him hearing, the way I said it six years ago when I first saw him on television.

Katie Sy, 26, is a freelance writer.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Game of the rich

"What do we care about protests and coup d'état and Mr. Arroyo's emergency power? That's a game for the rich and powerful and we, the poor, will continue to toil every day regardless of the result."

—Lisa Lakeland, a resident of an urban poor community

Unjustifiable

"You weren't wet. You weren't cold. You weren't hungry and yet you did these things."

—US District Judge Larry Burns, sentencing former US Rep. Randy Cunningham to eight years in prison for taking \$2.4 million in bribes

Abandoned quest

"As events go, I don't think there is a sincere search for truth."

—Lina Archibishop, a nun, decrying the administration's response to the call of Catholic bishops to pursue the truth behind the "Hello Garci" controversy

Risky experiment

"We cannot allow anybody to experiment with our liberties."

—Rene Saguisag, urging the Supreme Court to stop President Macapagal-Arroyo from issuing a state of national emergency

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



GMA's Waterloo in the making

UNDERSECRETARY LAURA PASCUA of the Department of Budget and Management is 100 percent right: "[I]nept, lazy and absentee" government employees must be weeded out. (PDI, 2/18/06)

However, the government's "Rationalization Program" does not provide a guarantee that only the truly inept, lazy and frequent absentee employees are going to be weeded out.

If Pascua is bent on cleansing the bureaucracy of incompetents and

scalawags, then, by all means, all government employees should be subjected to a written IQ test and evaluated as to their individual work performance, efficiency and effectiveness. Those who fail should be given their walking papers outright.

What is disheartening to note is that the "bata-bata" system is widely practiced in many, if not all, government agencies.

The irrational and cruel Rationalization Program could ignite a poten-

tial "social time bomb," the explosion of which could cause further destabilization and worsen the economic crisis and the incidence of criminality and poverty; and alienate people from the government, which we don't want to happen. Ultimately, the program could drag President Macapagal-Arroyo to her own Waterloo.

—ROMY V. LOFAMIA,
043 Haring Constantino St.,
Barangay Greater Lagro,
Novales, Quezon City

LETTERS

Scared of losing face

THE GENERAL PERCEPTION is: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo refuses to step down because of her lust for power.

I see it in a different light. I presume the reason she holds on to the presidency is not the fear of losing power, but the fear of losing face. Seen in this light, the present political crisis becomes understandable.

If she withstands all the political tremors rocking her regime until her term ends (be it by 2010 or by Charter change), she has the chance to be hailed as the strongest President this country ever had, her legitimacy notwithstanding.

No doubt, any president would like to be remembered in the best way possible, and this is what Ms. Arroyo is trying to do despite the odds.

She has indeed learned the lessons of Edsa, she would never allow herself to be remembered in history going the same way as Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada did.

—BHEEJEY A. AMAR,
publications editor,
Uplift Philippines,
287 A. Mabini St.,
Maypajo,
Caloocan City

An ignorant party factotum

IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR, Manuel E. Mejorada, provincial administrator of Iloilo (PDI, 3/13/06), suggested that INQUIRER columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan should have double-checked her facts regarding the party affiliation of the Iloilo leaders who attended the Liberal Party convention at the Manila Hotel. In that convention, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was elected the new president of the party.

The Manila Hotel election was not a sham election. It was a legitimate act of the LP general assembly attended by party members from all over the country. It is true that there were many non-LP members who attended the meeting but they were sworn in later as party members after the election, not before.

Mayor Raul Banias of Concepcion did not walk out of the convention. The truth is that he and the other mayors from Iloilo were invited to a special meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The four Iloilo board members

who were in that convention were invited as observers. The allegation that I, the lone Liberal Party board member in the convention, had earlier been expelled from the party is not true. I dissociated myself from the administration of Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas on the issue of rampant graft and corruption.

The Liberal Party members in Western Visayas no longer recognize Sen. Franklin Drilon as party president. Lakas party members attended the LP convention simply to affirm the Lakas-LP coalition supporting President Arroyo. Drilon, as former party leader, violated this agreement of the coalition to support the President, without consulting the coalition's other members.

However, we cannot blame Mejorada for his ignorance of the latest political developments. He is not privy to intra-party matters for he is just a minor factotum of some political leaders in Iloilo.

—EMMANUEL GALLAR,
senior board member
and spokesman,
Liberal Party-Iloilo Chapter

No break-in at the House

QUOTING ANONYMOUS SOURCES, the INQUIRER published on March 13 a news report about an alleged break-in between January 2005 and February 2005 at the House of Representatives South Lobby storage area where ballot boxes of election returns from the 2004 national elections are being kept.

This is a totally malicious fabrication—a polluted work of fiction—from a source who conveniently hides behind the cloak of anonymity while hurling accusations, the nature of which demands full identification as a source of vital information.

This matter is clearly a recycled issue; it is being revived during a period of unrest. The purported CD allegedly containing footage of the break-in is tainted with mal-

ice and falsehood. No break-in is possible in the storage room since it is secured with padlocks and is on a 24-hour watch by the House security, backed up by a closed-circuit monitoring system.

Records from the sergeant at arms of the House contain no report of any break-in between January 2005 and February 2005—or at any other day for that matter.

I affirm that the House has guarded zealously—and to the utmost of our capacity—the integrity of the subject ballot boxes and the election documents and paraphernalia contained therein.

—ROBERTO NAZARENO,
secretary general,
House of Representatives,
National Government Center,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Justice derailed is justice denied

WE WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS of witchhunts shall never allow ourselves to be used for another one.

The Arroyo administration's state of emergency may have been lifted, but its chilling effect remains. In its wake, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has moved to prosecute Representatives Satur Ocampo, Joel Virador, Teodoro Casio, Lisa Maza, Rafael Mariano and Crispin Beltran for their "alleged involvement in the bloody purges" conducted by the Communist Party of the Philippines in the 1980s to flush out suspected government spies." (PDI, 3/2/06)

We of the Peace Advocates for Truth, Healing and Justice (Path)—the torture survivors and kin of the "killing fields" victims—are deeply appalled by this turn of events. What we seek is the truth untainted by narrow political agendas and maneuvers. We have been persevering for justice and seeking the remains of the disappeared. Now with the government's draconian measures to stifle dissent, the legitimacy of our cause is being jeopardized by its attempts to expropriate the issue for political expediency.

The blanket charge against the six legislators for the crimes that

attended the anti-infiltration operations muddles the issue and in no way serves our quest for truth and justice. The only way to ascertain the culpability for these crimes is through an official investigation devoid of politics. A legitimate request could best be undertaken by impartial bodies like the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights or the International Committee of the Red Cross, with which we already had initial dialogues. National bodies like the Commission on Human Rights, the House Committee on Human Rights, or the Philippine courts may be in a position to conduct such investigations as long as impartiality is assured.

All persons liable for the purges must not go scot-free. But neither can we let our case be used by any regime to persecute the innocent and buttress repressive rule. We stand by our principle of neutrality and impartiality. Justice cannot be served through unjust circumstances.

—ROBERT FRANCIS GARCIA,
secretary general,
ROGEL NAVARRO, chair,
Peace Advocates for Truth,
Justice and Healing (Path),
45 Matimtiman cor. Magiting St.,
Teachers' Village, Diliman, QC

To build a morally strong nation

ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE Feb. 8 issue of the INQUIRER, a news item, titled "Ma'am GMA teaches kids English, geography," caught my attention. I earnestly hope that one day the President will also find time to teach our children honesty and all the time-honored moral values accepted in all civilized and progressive countries, as a first step in developing morally strong future leaders for our nation and in eradicating graft and corruption.

Dishonesty breeds graft and corruption, one of the underlying causes of poverty. A World Bank report says that 40 percent of government revenues are lost to corruption. The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism confirms the graft and corrupt practices of some of our lawmakers and high government officials who are hopelessly rotten to the core. And Transparency International listed the Philippines as one of the most corrupt countries in the world, mainly because of the dishonesty of our political leaders.

Through education or by teaching moral values, we can produce honest leaders. Thus can we stamp out the culture of graft and corruption and eventually alleviate the suffering of our people. I hope that the President, toward this end, will

direct her policy advisers for education to focus their attention on the family home, which is the first "school" where children get their first lessons on honesty and other positive and desirable values. These values are later reinforced by the school, the community and the church, which are known to be the traditional social institutions that, aside from the family, play an important role in building morally strong persons.

A morally strong family is the bedrock of a strong nation. In this light, the President should appoint an education secretary (as well as undersecretaries) who is well-grounded in the field of social and behavioral sciences, understands human behavior and is willing to make the teaching of moral values part of the curricula of public and private schools.

There is no sense in changing the form of our government from presidential to parliamentary system if we do not develop a morally strong nation.

A system of government does not lie, cheat or steal; it is the intelligent but morally bankrupt political leaders who do, thereby depriving our children and future generations of Filipinos a bright future.

—FLORENCIO G. VILLARIN,
23-C Gen. Maxilom Ave., Cebu City

PERS GEN
LARRY ALCALAS
APONG AKSAYA
by Boy Tan Togonon

HUH!

BAKIT MADILIM?

BROWNOUT BA?

PERSGEN ANONG NANGYARI, BAKIT WALANG ILAW?

LOLO, SAMPLE LANG PO YAN, ... PAE HINDI PO TAYO MATUTUNG MASTIPID NG ENERJEY

TIME WILL COME NASA DILIM TAYO MABUBUHAY, ... CLEAR BA LOLO?

A public service of First Gen Corporation
ADVT

Own It

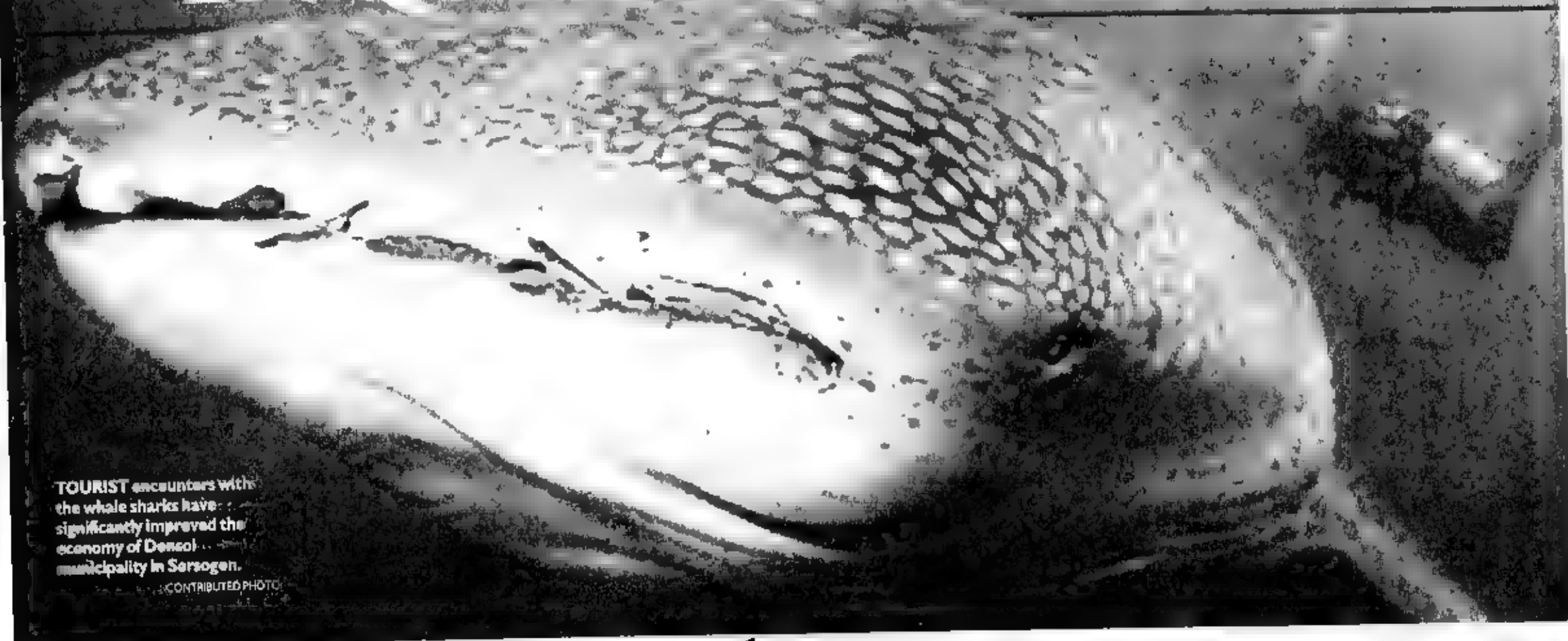
Nature's beauty right in your own backyard.

Live it up in your very own paradise
Experience living in nature's loving care

Come Home To Nature

Sun Valley Estates Brgy Inarawan, Antipolo City • Tel. No. 681.8240 • Mobile No. 0917.3920141
HLLJBB License Nos. 06243 08129 10481

INQUIRER



TOURIST encounters with the whale sharks have significantly improved the economy of Donsol municipality in Sorsogon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Butanding'-driven economy

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Donsol, Sorsogon

SINCE ITS REDISCOVERY in 1998 in the coastal town of Donsol in northwestern Sorsogon, the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), locally known as the "butanding," has not only continued to lure more foreign tourists but also made people increasingly aware of the need to protect the world's biggest fish.

Tourist "encounters" or "interactions" with the gentle creature has buoyed up the local economy and created more jobs for residents.

Once a communist rebel lair, Donsol has thus become one of the most visited places in the province. It has become one of the top tourist attractions in the country, drawing visitors from the United States, Australia, Germany and other Asian countries, such as Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

Tourist haven

Latest reports from the Department of Tourism showed that over the past eight years, Donsol's economy has surged as a result of whale shark watching and interaction from September to May.

Sales and investment missions abroad have proved that these nature activities is highly sustainable and complement the promotion of Donsol as a prime tourist destination that is attractive to both domestic and international markets.

In 2004, the Time Asia magazine described the interaction with the butanding as "Asia's Best Animal Encounter."

"[The] butanding's friendly charm has not only made Donsol the Whale Shark Capital of the Philippines but also made the country Asia's Whale Shark Capital," DOT regional director Maria Ravanilla said. The whale shark is

touted to live up to a hundred years and can grow up to 18 meters and weigh up to 24 tons.

More revenues

It took the municipality and its residents four years before they felt the success of the "eco-interaction tour" program. With revenues derived from its tourism efforts, Donsol was elevated from a fifth-class municipality (annual income: P7 million to P13 million) to fourth-class (P13 million-P21 million).

"Likewise, from Rank 76 in the poverty line among the poorest municipalities of the region, we are surprised that Donsol now ranks 17," said Salvador Adrao Jr., municipal tourism officer.

Adrao attributed the improvement to "the robust growth in the tourist traffic and receipts for the past eight years due to the butanding."

In 1998, records showed 800 registered visitors and a total income of P454,875 generated from registration fees and boat rentals. Last year, the number of visitors increased to about 7,200, with total income from the eco-interaction tour reaching P9 million.

Donsol contributed about P35 million to the country's gross domestic income, P15 million of which went to the municipality.

"This year, especially this summer and during Holy Week, we really expect an increase because of the successful visit last Jan. 23 of at least six foreign delegates who attended the Asian tourism forum in Davao," Ravanilla said. The delegates came from Canada, Germany, Taiwan, The Netherlands, the United States and Pakistan.

"They were impressed because it was their first time to interact with the friendly butanding and they were fascinated as well with the way locals protect their environment," Ravanilla said.

Upgrade

In 2002, the program underwent extensive improvements, especially through the efforts of the

Municipal Tourism Council (MTC) which recruited the Butanding Interaction Officers (BIOs) and formed the Butanding Operators' Association (BOA).

The upgrading measures led to the creation of more than 300 jobs related to tour services. These include whale shark spotters, boat

guides, van drivers and other volunteers, including the Bantay Dagat.

More than 200 fishermen have gained seasonal employment.

Alan Amanse, chief of the BIOs and one of the guides, said most of the fishermen benefited from the training program conducted every

year by the MTC.

Ruel Pine, project manager of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), said his group's business development plan study showed that Donsol had been able to set eco-tourism standards that could be upheld globally.

Aside from monitoring and re-

search, the WWF is pursuing plans to draw up a fisheries management program in support of sustainable efforts to protect the whale sharks and eco-tourism.

This will address environmental issues, such as illegal fishing and exploitation of fishing resources in the future, it said.

OH MY GADGETS! PROMO

HALLS Clorets Chiclets Dentyne Ice

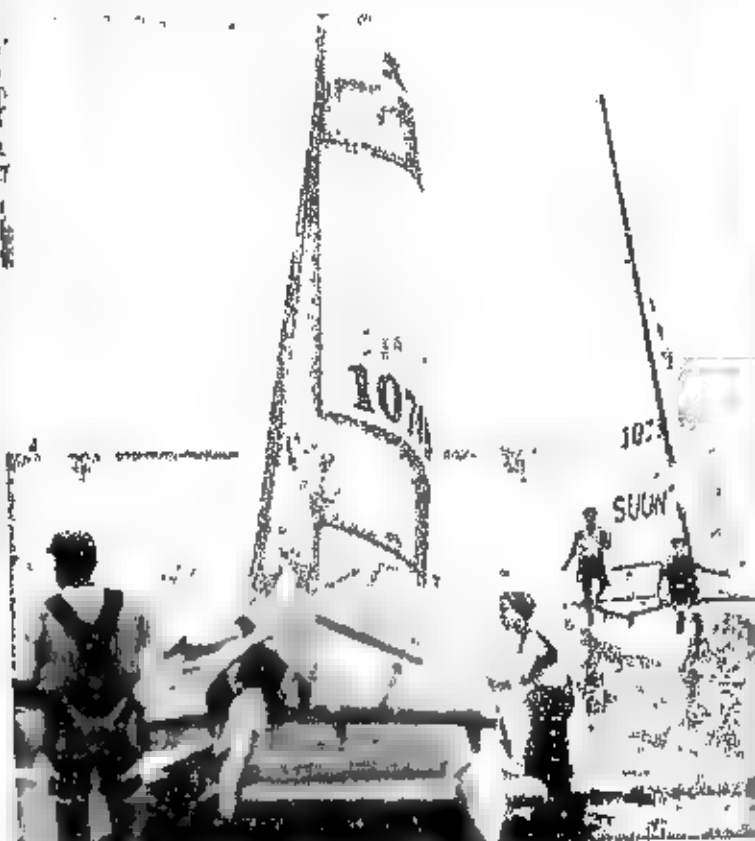
Congratulations to the winners!

IPOD SHUFFLE	CANON DIGICAM	IPOD NANO
Joanna Rubi M. Bomanay 33 Silva St. Ph. 7 Vista Verde Executive Village Calicut, Rizal	Raul Y. Pascual Baiti City of San Fernando, Pampanga	Jeannelyn Sae 137 A Jose Al St., Metro Manila
Anna Elaine Petina M. Pascual 188 Mt. View Park, Marikina City	Grissina Feliciano 28 Victoria Village, Marikina, Valenzuela City	Sheryl C. Sae 1 Rd. 88 UPS 5 Subd. Pasay City
Maris Villanueva Sta. 23 Lot 11 San Carlos North St. Pasay City	Ma. Cristina Fuentes 83 B Aquino St. Marikina City	Vernon Tancos 247 La Trinidad Subd. Lalambay, Marikina, Marikina City
Ramon E. Manabot Jr. 4826 A. Reyes St. Pasay City, Marikina	Ma. Ana Cabaguing Sta. 48 Lot 3 Woodstock St. Marikina, Pasay City	Lydia C. Moran 288-B Tomas St. Marikina City
Rebecca Santiago 14 Marikina St. Marikina, Marikina City	Peter Paul Tolentino P. Damaso St. Marikina City	Michelle Bimaranan 530 Parulman St. Marikina, Marikina City
Johnson Guyochia 1844 Velasquez St. Tondo, Manila	Michael Jay P. Balder Calvary Hills, Apo, Cebu City Bago-De Residencia / 27	Lourdes M. Sanchez 288-B Tomas St. Marikina City
Artelia Encarnacion Park 3 Bantay Subdivision, Marikina, Marikina City	Sharon Quintanilla 429 Bantay Subd. Marikina, Marikina City 4182/33	NOKIA MM PHONE
Alissa A. Alvarado 1887 Capistrano Subdivision Marikina City	Rossie C. Miranda 1177 Waga St. Tondo, Manila	Bryan Rod Zafra 2884 Park 7 Subd. Marikina City
Kathryn Joyce C. Sulson no. 66 Bantay St. 88 L18 Pasay City	Suzette Escalante 4006 P. Damaso St. Marikina City Marikina City	Serie A. Juan 3 via Arturo Villa Angeles Marikina City
	Ramon Pantoja 2027 Br. J. Gabriel St. Marikina, Marikina City	Luella Armada 1288-B Tomas Marikina City Marikina City

Keep buying Halls, Clorets, Dentyne Ice and Chiclets
and get a chance to win some more cool gadgets!

Simply buy from participating establishments specially marked HALLS, CLORETS, DENTYNE ICE,
CHICLETS products with OH MY GADGETS! promo sticker. Each sticker has a unique alphanumeric
sticker code printed on it. To send entry for the raffle draw, TEXT:

GADGETS stickercode/name/complete
address/age then send to 2929(GLOBE)



COLORFUL hobie cats take off from Donsol for island destinations in Bicol and the Visayas areas.

RODRIGO LON



ALL DOLLED UP in blue, President Arroyo extends a big welcome to Vice President Noli de Castro during the dinner she hosted for visiting New Zealand PM Helen Clark at the Bohol Beach Club, Panglao, Bohol.



NEW ZEALANDER PM Helen Clark sips coconut juice like a native during a visit in Pamilacan Island in Baclayon, Bohol.

Nene fumes; he's in Palace video on 'enemies of the state'

From page A1

as the narrator relates a plan by a mob of opposition supporters to lay siege to Malacañang.

The 15-minute documentary is book ended by the televised broadcast of Ms Arroyo outlining her reasons for declaring the state of emergency and footage of her mingling with students, indigenous people and the elderly.

It was directed by Ms Arroyo's media consultant, Lupita Aquino-Kashwahara, and featured Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon alternately talking about the coup plot hatched by leftist and rightist elements. The narrator was dzRB and NBN 4 anchor Allan Alangue.

Pimentel's daughter managed to catch a glimpse of the documentary being shown on National Broadcasting Network on Tuesday night. A copy of the CD was also being distributed to peasants in Bulacan, according to the senator.

A Palace source said that RTVM (Radio Television Malacañang) made an initial batch of

3,000 copies of the video, which was shown repeatedly on all three government-owned stations.

Worse than portraying him as an "enemy of the state," the documentary was a virtual invitation to "assassinate" him, said Pimentel, a critic of the administration.

Death warrant

"When words 'enemy of the state' are used by the AFP to maintain law and order, that is dangerous. It is a death warrant because the military, unlike the police, will shoot first before asking questions," the senator said in the interview.

Pimentel suspected that the CD, which is enclosed in a plastic jacket bearing the image of Ms Arroyo and Senga, was produced and distributed on Malacañang orders.

"I suppose that Mr. (Press Secretary Ignacio) Bunye or Mr. (Cerge) Remonde would probably have a hand in this," he said in his privilege speech on Tuesday.

"If they're not [involved], then somebody must be held account-

able because they are using government money to place the life of a senator at risk by this reckless accusation," the senator later said in the interview.

Apologize

He said he wanted the Office of the President to apologize.

Pimentel also demanded that Malacañang stop the showing of the documentary on TV and the distribution of the CD "because they're destabilizing the situation in the country."

The material for the documentary was largely based on information forwarded by the military, specifically "Operation Hackle" documents purportedly seized from Magdalo fugitive Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

The video showed Senga's narration of how then Scout Rangers head Brig. Gen. Danny Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin talked to him in his office on Feb. 23 about the plan of the two officers to join the rallies on Feb. 24, the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, with their men.

The documentary also pinned



PIMENTEL demands apology

down Lim's role in the uprising as the "overall ground commander of the military component" with a video showing him saluting troops beside the President.

Between Left and Right

For his part, Esperon disclosed a supposed memorandum of agreement between the CPP (represented by Leo Velasco, Pruden-

cio Calubid and Adelberto Silva) and the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (represented by Col. Rafael Galvez, Col. Jake Malacan and Lt. Lawrence San Juan) to overthrow the government.

Esperon also disclosed plans of leftist and rightist elements to attack military camps, eliminate high-value targets and assassinate the President, a Cabinet member and the top brass of the AFP.

Esperon also spoke of Operation Hackle, the participation of lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte (who, he claimed, was a staff member of the CPP-NPA), and the culpability of ex-Sen. Gringo Honasan (who was referred to by his alias Bitoy) whom he accused of praising the CPP and thanking it for reaching an agreement after two-and-a-half years of negotiations.

March

The documentary said it was Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo who acknowledged the alliance among the forces of Estrada, the Hyatt 10 and former President

Corason Aquino and their plan to gather 20,000 protesters to start a march on Feb. 22, proceed to the People Power monument on Feb. 23, and converge at Mendiola Bridge on Feb. 24.

During the run-up to the planned three-day march, the documentary claimed that the NPA had stepped up attacks on the military.

The documentary said the Kamagank ng Bayan was not only made up of junior officers but also students, professionals and church members which it did not identify.

While the documentary used mostly five video of nameless protesters, a footage of Senators Jamby Madrigal and Pimentel attending one of the rallies was flashed on screen while the narrator spoke of the group's contingency plan to bring 500,000 marchers to the Palace gates by May 1.

Madrigal and Pimentel were the only prominent opposition personalities featured on the video that were not named by either Senga or Esperon.

High-fat hospital diet alarms Beltran's wife

From page A1

serving food that could only worsen the condition of her hypertensive and diabetic husband.

"The PNP hospital does not seem to have a competent dietitian, or any dietitian at all. This is more of a prison than a hospital," Rosario Beltran told reporters.

"Ka Bel's custodians at the PNP [have been] poisoning him with inappropriate and unhealthy food ever since his detention last Feb. 25," Rosario added. Beltran, 73, was arrested on rebellion charges.

Rosario said breaded fried *galunggong* (fish) seemed to be a staple food ration at the hospital as well as a meat dish with fat trimmings. She said that Beltran was also served chicken neck with the skin on and oil-based sauce.

Family brings meals

"Those viands won't do Ka Bel any good since he has high blood pressure and he just suffered a stroke in July 2005. The vegetables they serve are also those that

his doctors have advised against," Rosario said, referring to string beans and okra.

"They don't even bother to serve any fruit," Rosario said.

Beltran's family has since been bringing food to keep him from being affected by the high-fat hospital diet—the meal also served to other patients.

"The family is bringing in the food that he needs. But since he's in the hospital, isn't it the doctors' concern to provide him with meals that would not worsen his

condition?" said Lisa Ito, Beltran's public information officer.

"The doctors at the PNP hospital checked on him and they know that he can't eat high-fat, high-cholesterol food. Can't they prepare a separate meal for him given his condition?" she added.

Fellow Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano called for the release of Beltran. "He should be treated in an environment that's not hostile," Mariano told the *Inquirer*.

"If his condition dictates that he be given a specific diet, he

should be given that proper diet," he added.

No VIP treatment

Rosario denied statements by Speaker Jose de Venecia and PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao that Beltran was being given VIP treatment.

"What VIP treatment are these two talking about? Inappropriate food is being served. There's no oxygen tank, alarm bell nor deoxygen bottle inside his room. It's all lies and press releases that

they are taking care of my husband well," Rosario said.

Evangelist Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus Is Lord Movement yesterday visited Beltran to pray over the lawmaker to fulfill an "apostolic duty."

"This is a Christian act of love," he said. "I'd like to appeal to the Arroyo government to immediately order the release of Congressman Beltran, [he] being an old man and elected by the people and also (being) hypertensive." With a report from Luigie A. del Puerto

Giant mall opens first breastfeeding station

From page A1

that can seat two to three mothers at a time.

The SM management has also organized an orientation course for security guards on how to assist nursing mothers anywhere in the mall.

Similar efforts are under way in other SM malls.

Brink of extinction

"The breastfeeding culture is now on the brink of extinction," Esguerra warned on Tuesday at

the opening of the pioneering nursing station.

The SM project is seen as a significant step toward reviving breastfeeding among Filipinos who, according to the World Health Organization, spend P21.5 billion yearly on infant formula.

'Best interest of children

"Optima, breastfeeding is in the best interest of children everywhere and fulfills children's rights to survival, development

and protection," Dr. Nicolas Alipui, Unicef country representative in the Philippines, said in a speech.

As many as 16,000 Filipino children under five years die every year simply because they're not breastfed, Alipui said, citing WHO figures.

Another disturbing statistic is that infants reared on milk formula are "7 to 25 times" more likely to die of diarrhea than a breastfed baby, he said.

They're also at risk of acquiring

pneumonia "5 to 50 times" more than their breastfed counterparts.

'Sure-fire investment'

The recommendation, according to Alipui, is exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a baby's life, then continued breastfeeding with complementary feeding for two years and beyond.

"Clearly, breastfeeding is a sure-fire investment in children's educational success and ability to

participate increasingly in society," he said.

Conversely, he said, "the lack of breastfeeding will undermine any efforts to educate the child in later childhood—when the lost IQ points can no longer be regained."

Unknown to many people, breastfeeding helps shield children from neglect, abuse and exploitation, Alipui said.

"Breastfeeding forms a strong bond between mother and child," he said. "It stimulates the release

of 'feel-good' hormones that relax the mother and strengthens her nurturing feelings toward the baby."

Case in point

Alipui said a case in point was the decision of the Dr. Jose Pabello Memorial Hospital to replace its nursery with a program on room-in and full breastfeeding among mothers.

"The rate of child abandonment dropped from over a dozen a year to nearly zero," he said.

Male nurse wants to be a she legally; court says no

From page A1

The Department of Justice, through Prosecutor Benedict Pataras, opposed the petition, saying that sex change was not one of the grounds provided for by law for a change of any entry in a birth certificate.

Pataras told Judge Francis Buflay that the man had "no cause of action." There is no error in the birth certificate from the beginning and thus there is nothing to

be changed or corrected, the prosecutor argued.

'Genital reassignment'

The petitioner had a "genital sex reassignment surgery" at the Aikhoi Hospital in Chonburi, Thailand, on Sept. 4, 2003.

An obstetrician-gynecologist in Baguio City conducted a post-operation examination on the man in June last year and cer-

tified that he had "physical and external female genital sex features."

In his petition, filed through lawyer Rosemarie Pia Sagsago, the man disclosed that since childhood, he had possessed the "psychological and emotional manifestations of a female."

He said he was prompted to undergo a battery of psychiatric tests for gender identity

disorder in London following his employment there as a nurse. The doctor who conducted the tests advised him to undergo surgery since he had "lived exclusively in [a] female role," he said.

But Pataras said the man's operation would not qualify him as a female "in point of law."

"There was no error in registering the facts of the birth of the petitioner. To deliberately state in

his birth certificate that he was born a female is tantamount to falsification," he said in his opposition.

Dictionary definition

He cited the dictionary definition of a female as "one belonging to the sex which gives birth to young or produces eggs."

"This definition presupposes the possession of organs that would enable one to conceive

and give birth," Pataras said. "It is then the possession of all female reproductive organs that would make a female a real female."

Recently, the Court of Appeals reversed a Manila RTC decision that granted the change of sex of a man who also underwent surgery to become a woman.

In a 10-page decision, the CA said the man could not change his gender because his birth certificate did not contain any error

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
101 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Pateros and Aguinaldo Sts.
Laguna City
Tel/Fax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 233-0345/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
PEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082) 244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedbacks: Inquirer atn name/surname/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Negros silica mines allowed to reopen

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—SILICA MINING OPERATIONS have resumed in Ayungon, Negros Oriental, two weeks after the area was shut down last month due to health and environment hazards and failure to pay local taxes.

Gov. George Arnaiz ordered on March 9 the lifting of the suspension of the mining activity of Goodyield Resources Development Inc. (GRDI). The company had been producing 20,000 to

30,000 metric tons of silica every month.

Arnaiz based his order on the recommendation of an inspection team that found allegations against the company to be untrue.

The firm operates in Barangay Maaslum, Ayungon, 82 km north of here. GRDI conducts quarry operations on behalf of the permit holder, the Heirs of Arturo Zayco (HAZ) Sr.

Vivien Arrieta, community offi-

cer of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, said that in 2003, HAZ secured a permit from the provincial government for small-scale quarrying of silica in a 10-hectare site while awaiting approval of a permit for large scale mining.

Arrieta said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Central Visayas granted the application of HAZ for large-scale mining, covering about 500 hectares of land.

HAZ later entered into a contract with GRDI for the latter to operate the mine.

Arnaiz ordered the suspension of GRDI's operations on Feb. 27 following complaints from barangay officials and residents that the mining activity was harmful to their health and caused environmental destruction.

The governor lifted the suspension on the recommendation of a multipartite monitoring team, which visited the site on March 3

and came up with a report favorable to GRDI.

The team was composed of representatives from the MGB and the Environmental Management Bureau; officials of Barangay Maaslum, the municipal government and the office of the governor; and the Ayungon Ministers Association.

Arnaiz, in lifting the suspension, said the operator should honor its commitment to pay taxes to the municipality.



CATCH

Authorities bring to shore a fishing boat believed to be operating illegally in Iloilo City. The boat yielded 4,000 tons of a fish called *lison* that authorities said were caught with the use of dynamites.

ARNOLD ALPACEN FOR VISAYAS BUREAU

CHR lists 6 deaths linked to war games

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE COMMISSION on Human Rights in Western Mindanao yesterday said at least six people identified with anti-"Balikatan" protests in Sulu had died in the hands of unidentified assailants since Jan. 28.

Jose Manuel Mamaug, CHR regional director, said the killings were uncovered during a week-long investigation of the series of recent violent incidents in Sulu.

"Six of those killed were anti-Balikatan protesters or identified with the group opposing the stay of the Americans in Sulu," he said.

He said the first killing occurred on Jan. 28 when unidentified armed men attacked a neighborhood in Barangay Lambayong, Patikul.

A person died in the attack while 11 others were injured.

Mamaug said the following day, a certain Sappayani and his son died during a night raid reportedly by Marines in Patikul.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get comments from local Army commander Brig. Gen. Nehemias Pajanto. The military official would not take calls made to his mobile phone.

On Jan. 30, another father and son were slain in Barangay Tuay

in Jolo, Mamaug said.

Mamaug said that on Feb. 6, Abu-jar Nasari, a student, was abducted while jogging on the Jolo airstrip. His decapitated body was found near the Department of Education office.

"There is really a breakdown in peace and order in Sulu and all these incidents occurred at the height of the Balikatan," he said.

Aside from the killings, Mamaug said soldiers were being accused of harassing people who campaigned against the Balikatan, which ended early this month.

On March 2, Army soldiers allegedly blasted the door of a house owned by the Jalam family in Jolo.

"A C4 bomb was used to forcibly open the door, they also used their armored vehicle to destroy the gate," Nelda Jalam said.

She said the soldiers were looking for his brother, Jahim Jalam, who works with the local environment office in Luuk town.

Mamaug said Jahim Jalam was among the organizers of the first anti-Balikatan rally in Sulu.

"The military will have some explaining to do," he said of the violence in Sulu. **Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

ROUNDUP

Suspected Abu member nabbed

PARANG, Maguindanao—Soldiers and policemen arrested a suspected Abu Sayyaf bandit who was allegedly involved in the abduction of 53 teachers and students in Basilan in 2001. Burhan Sali, also known as commander Abu Sanny, was arrested in a raid on his hideout on March 6 on the outskirts of Barangay Facoma, said Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division. Dema-ala said Sali did not resist arrest after soldiers and policemen surrounded his hideout. He said Sali had been providing refuge to other high-ranking Abu Sayyaf bandits, including Abu Solaiman, Khadafy Janjani and Isnilon Hapilon, in Central Mindanao.

Jeffrey Mailem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

60 MILF members yield

PARANG, Maguindanao—At least 60 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) surrendered to the military ahead of the resumption of peace talks in Kuala Lumpur. The rebels, who operate in the town of Datu Montawal, also surrendered firearms, the Army's 6th Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala said. "They are not recalcitrant (surrenderers). We have the records of those who surrendered before. The residents of Montawal can testify that they are active members of the rebel group," Dema-ala said. But MILF spokesperson Eld Kabalu said they were not regular members of the front but armed followers of Mohammad Anduy, a barangay chair in Montawal town.

Jeffrey Mailem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Apology for ship woes

BACOLOD CITY—Aboltiz shipping's SuperFerry 9, which was bound for Bacolod, Iligan and Ozamiz cities from Manila with 1,300 passengers on board, developed technical problems at sea, delaying its arrival here from 1 p.m. Monday to 3 p.m. Tuesday. John Rojo, assistant vice president for corporate communications, said SuperFerry 9 developed steering problems near Bago Island, 98 nautical miles from here. In the northeastern part of Panay Island at 10:15 a.m. Monday, SuperFerry 2 was called in to tow it to the city, he said. Of the 1,300 passengers and crew on board, 391 were bound for Bacolod. He said the firm apologized to the passengers and their relatives for the 26-hour delay.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Whirlwind in Panay

ROXAS CITY—A whirlwind that hit six villages in Panay town on March 10 destroyed at least 10 houses in Barangay Ilaya. Panay Mayor Felipe Barredo said the municipal government would give financial assistance to the families. Sen. Manuel Roxas II, who hails from Capiz, also offered financial help.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Wescom mangrove planting

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Armed Forces Western Command celebrated its 30th year by planting about 1,000 mangrove seedlings off its headquarters here. One of the guests, Mayor Edward Hagedorn, underscored the issue of global warming, which he said might also define the country's well-being. He told Wescom commander Rear Admiral Tirso Danga, the officers and personnel of the command, and other guests that "environmental terrorism is more disastrous than actual terrorism."

Geraldine Ticks, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

7 cops sacked

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police officials in Cagayan relieved seven policemen, who were disarmed by communist rebels in their detachment in Alcala, Cagayan, on March 9. Provincial police director Senior Supt. James Andres Meisid said the policemen were cooking dinner in the community precinct outpost in Barangay Baybayag when 14 New People's Army rebels arrived at past 7 p.m. The rebels took at least four firearms and mobile phones from the policemen.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Customs men check Sariaya grains terminal

A PRIVATE GRAINS TERMINAL with a port in Sariaya, Quezon that was financed through a P1.5 billion government-guaranteed loan is attracting so much attention now as customs agents began looking into allegations that it was being used for smuggling.

A group of businessmen, who expressed suspicion that the port was becoming a smuggling hub, said it was being used to bring in untaxed shipments of corn and other agricultural products.

But officials of Nation Granary Inc. (NGI), which owns the port, said the 33,000 metric tons of corn that are loaded in the vessel May Raffles, currently docked at the port, are covered with importation documents and tax receipts.

The 33,000 MT of corn, said the group of businessmen, are likely to find their way into the local market and sold at prices far cheaper than local corn.

Documents showed that the corn shipment came from Dalian, China.

Alison Sy, chief executive officer of NGI, said in an interview with the INQUIRER there was nothing irregular about the shipment.

She presented documents showing that the corn shipment was covered by permits from the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Bureau of Customs.

She said the shipment was brought in to test the newly built facilities of NGI's port, which she said would be the largest in Southeast Asia with an 18-meter drop.

She said the grains would be used to test two machines that would unload shipment from ships to conveyor belts that would bring them to silos in the NGI facility in Sariaya.

Sy said there was no undervaluation involved in the shipment.

She showed copies of receipts of payments of duties made for the shipment.

She said banks would not issue her letters of credit to bring in the corn if this was an

irregular shipment.

According to an article in the website of United Coconut Planters Bank, which gave the P1.5 billion to finance the NGI project, the facility received P700 million for the importation of equipment from the United States and Europe and P800 million for the purchase of grains.

"The loan ... is secured by a comprehensive guarantee from the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (PhilEXIM)," said

the UCPB article.

Loans that receive guarantees from the PhilEXIM are, in turn, guaranteed by the national government.

PhilEXIM's website said its corporate objective was to "stimulate, increase and develop the export of goods and services ..."

But the businessmen said the entry of imported corn into the port was suspicious. With a report from Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NorthRail fare for 33km pegged at P43, says exec

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—COMMUTERS will pay P43 for a 33-km trip from Caloocan City to Malolos City in Bulacan, when NorthRail begins operations in early 2009.

Jose Cortes Jr., president of the state-owned North Luzon Railways Corp., said the rate (comprised of a P10 boarding fee and P1 for every km) was approved by the investment coordination committee of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The fare, however, would apply only in the first year of NorthRail's operation.

"Once operating costs go higher, NorthRail intends to place a request [for an increase]," Cortes told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Wednesday. Trains will run on diesel and coal diesel.

The fare set for the NorthRail is about half of the current cost of a ride in buses plying the Metro Manila-Pampanga route.

Cortes said NorthRail could gross

an estimated \$83.6 million in the first year. The figure was based on the P43 starting rate and on a study by an independent European firm that passengers could reach 160,000 daily for first 10 years and 360,000 passengers daily thereafter.

Minus payments of \$37.41 million to China's Export-Import Bank, from which a \$1-billion loan was obtained for the project, and \$13.4 million to Philippines' Export-Import Bank for loan counterpart, the net income could amount to \$32.85 million, he said.

"We will be able to pay the loan," Cortes said.

The first phase of the project costs \$421 million. The final package consisted of a 3-percent interest per year and a repayment period of 20 years with no penalty for delays.

China's preferential loan, the biggest so far that it has lent out in Asia, covered 95 percent of the project's cost, Cortes said. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Republic of the Philippines
PHILHEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citywide Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Heldelber 027-4999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 02, s. 2006

TO : ALL PHILHEALTH MEMBERS, ACCREDITED TB DOTS FACILITIES, AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Amendment to Accreditation of TB-DOTS Facilities

In support of the policies of the National Tuberculosis Program, the current rules on the TB-DOTS accreditation stated in PhilHealth Circular Number 17 series of 2003 are amended by the following provisions:

- A. CERTIFICATION OF TB-DOTS CENTERS**
 1. The Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (Phicat) is co-chair of the National Coordinating Committee - Public Private Mix DOTS (NCC-PPMD). As such, the certification issued by NCC-PPMD is synonymous to the certification issued by PhilCAT.
 2. In meritorious cases, PhilHealth will grant TB-DOTS accreditation to facilities even without NCC-PPMD certification after a survey done by its personnel. However, NCC-PPMD certification will be required upon renewal of accreditation.
- B. MODIFICATIONS IN THE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR TB-DOTS CENTERS**
 1. In the absence of a registered Medical Technologist, an NTP-trained microscopist will be required in DOTS facility or referral laboratory for sputum smear examination.
 2. For DOTS centers with no capability of performing radiological procedures, a MOA with an X-ray facility will no longer be a requirement for accreditation. However, DOTS centers should still refer patients needing radiologic services to an X-ray facility.
- C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU)-OWNED TB-DOTS CENTERS**
 1. DOTS Centers owned by LGUs are exempted from submission of Mayor's Permit.
 2. In order to sustain operations of DOTS Clinics, LGUs are requested to follow the PPMD-recommended allocation of PhilHealth payments.

This Circular shall take effect after fifteen days from publication in the official gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

All other rules and guidelines not contrary to this circular shall remain in full force and effect.

(Sgd.) **LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III**
OIC, Office of the President and CEO
Date Signed: February 28, 2006

Way to save a million pesos on your vacation

2 for 1 fares

"What's new pussycat?"

Bangkok • Chiang Mai • Da Nang • Darwin • Guangzhou
Hankou • Hanoi • Hat Yai • Ho Chi Minh City • Krabi • Macau
Manila (Clark) • Padang • Phuket • Shenzhen • Singapore

Book Now! **tigerairways.com**

Shuttle bus available to/from Terminal at SIA Megamall, Ortigas Centre (P300) and Pinarosa Bus Terminal (P350) to/from Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

*All flights are to/from Singapore. Airfares are for one way excluding taxes and fees. Including public holidays. Limited seats on selected flights. Limited availability during peak periods and school holidays. Call approved rates. Subject to prevailing currency exchange rates. Shuttle bus fares are one way. All bookings are non-refundable and subject to terms and conditions stated in the website.

Orphan is top PMA grad

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY — AN ORPHAN from Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, whose education was supported by four sisters working as domestic helpers abroad, will lead the Philippine Military Academy's biggest graduating class on March 25.

Cadet First Class Ariel Toledo, valedictorian of the PMA Mandala Class of 2006, said he would like to dedicate his achievement to the "real heroes" in his family.

"I would like to thank my four elder sisters who worked abroad as DH (domestic helpers or maids) so that my siblings and I would have a good education," the 25-year-old Toledo said in Ilocos on Wednesday.

"They were the ones who sacrificed after our parents died," he said.

Toledo, who will receive the presidential saber, the PGMA achievement award for academic excellence and the Philippine Air Force saber during the graduation rites, is the 10th of 12 children of a former policeman and a homemaker.

His sisters Ely Fejeder (now working in Hong Kong), Beth Castro (now in Canada), Immaculada Concepcion Castillo (now in Taiwan) and May Rabanal (now in the United States) are still supporting Toledo's younger siblings in Ilocos Sur. Through the Toledo sisters' support, the family now has two civil engineers, a geodetic engineer and a midwife.

Biggest class

Only Castro was able to finish her studies, Toledo said.

Toledo ranked first among 324 graduates of the Mandala (coined from "Mandirigma" and "Lahi" or Honorable Warrior of the race), which is not only the biggest class in PMA's 108-year history but also the class with the most number of magna cum laude (11) and cum laude (37) graduates.

The class also has the most number of women graduates with 37 since PMA started graduating female cadets in 1997.

The other top graduates are: Cadets First Class Francis Rosales of Baguio City, second, who will receive the vice presidential saber and the Philippine Army saber, Romeo Sotero of La Trinidad, Benguet, third, who will receive the defense secretary's saber and Philippine Navy saber, Ethelbert Aaron Kinsasa of Misamis Oriental, fourth, Michael Gorong of La Trinidad, Benguet, fifth, Anna Abdula of Concepcion, Tarlac, sixth, Noah Hernandez of Kidapawan City, seventh, Erwin Soloren of South Cotabato, eighth, Joe Vergel Santos of Kidapawan City, ninth, and Joy Peñaloza of South Cotabato, 10th.

Except for Abdula and Peñaloza, all those in the top 10 graduates will graduate magna cum laude.

Toledo, Rosales and Sotero will also be studying in the United States after graduation for being the JUSMAG (Joint United States Military Assistance Group) awardees.

Humble beginnings

"Toledo represents the very huge population of PMA graduates who came from humble beginnings. There are many, many success stories in this class and the 324 cadets are themselves individual successes," said Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Malgag, PMA superintendent.

Malgag said he is particularly proud of the huge number of graduates in this class and their relatively low attrition rate.

"They are armed only with their dedication and gift of intelligence," Malgag said of this year's graduates.

Asked about the fear that the graduates would soon be joining their restive alumni, Malgag said they did not isolate the cadets and they knew what was happening in the country.

"I have a healthy respect for their intelligence and judgment. My only direct instruction is that they set their priorities right," he said.

Childhood dream

Toledo said being a military officer is a childhood dream come true.

"I was attracted by the uniforms of my father and his fellow PC (Philippine Constabulary), that's why I decided to join the military. I also joined all Scouting activities," said Toledo.

He was only in Grade 5 when his father, Providencio Toledo Sr., died. His mother, Pilar, died when he was in his second year in the PMA. It was his sisters who raised the Toledo brood. With a report from Russell Arado, PDI Central Luzon Desk

MOVE UP
TO A STYLISH,
YOUTHFUL DRINK
THAT OFFERS
A REFRESHINGLY
NEW DRINKING
EXPERIENCE!



CLEARLY
REFRESHING
BEER

Carlsberg
chill

TRY IT IN THESE COOLSPOTS!

MAKATI
• TEMPLE BAR
• BISTRO 110
• STRUMM'S

FORT
• EMBASSY
• PRINCE OF JAIPUR
• EAST OF SAINT LOUIS

METROWALK SUCAT/ALABANG
• PHI BAR
• ARUBA
• MUGEN
• BELLEVUE
• 19 EAST

TIMOG
• INNO BAR
• NINETEEN 20
• PADKO'S GRILL
• QUATTRO

EASTWOOD
• BLUE ONION

MALATE
• RETRO BAR
• KAKOI
• COMMON GROUND
• OURS
• CENTURY PARK HOTEL
• CELLAR BAR

LOTTO RESULT

EZ2 SUERTRES

11 15 4 9 0

FOUR DIGIT

5 3 2 3

(Result above in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45

6 23 25 31 34 42

P23,665,789.80

GET THE LATEST LOTTO
RESULTS DAILY

Text LOTTO to 299

Open to all SMART subscribers. Only P2.50 per message.

Aplus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph



THE CAR of Denver Razon, son of singer Darius Razon (above), is a wreck after being sideswiped by a truck which sped off after the accident. The younger Razon, who used to appear in the teen show "That's Entertainment," which featured popular young stars in the 90s, was killed instantly while his companion remained under observation.

RAFFY LERMA



Singer's son killed in mishap

Car accident claims Darius Razon's last child

By DJ Yap

FOURTEEN YEARS AFTER HE LOST HIS daughter to a fire, balladeer and former Mandaluyong City Councilor Darius Razon lost his remaining child in a traffic accident.

Razon's eldest son, Denver, 29, a businessman, was killed in a hit-and-run incident involving a 10-wheeler truck in

Quezon City early yesterday morning.

The younger Razon was on board a Honda City (plate number WAJ-920) being driven by his friend Marian Bustillos, 23, along G. Araneta Avenue at 1:36 a.m. when the car was sideswiped by a truck, police said.

The impact sent the sedan slamming into an electric post and the steel gate of the Alob-Alob Restaurant at the corner of

Palanza Street, according to a report by PO3 Perlito Datu of Quezon City Traffic Sector IV.

Instead of stopping, the unidentified trucker kept driving, police said. Witnesses, however, were able to take note of the truck's plate number which was PLN-753.

Razon was rushed to the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Hospital, but

he died before reaching the hospital.

Bustillos, on the other hand, was taken to Lourdes Hospital, where she is still confined.

In 1992, the elder Razon lost his teenage daughter when a fire ate up his house in Mandaluyong City, as he was waiting for election results that would earn him his first of two terms as city councilor.

Murder of undercover policeman solved

By Luigi del Puerto

THE MURDER OF AN UNDERCOVER agent by members of an alleged drug ring nearly two years ago has been solved with the arrest of a primary suspect, police said yesterday.

Prior to Tuesday's arrest of George Apruebo in a house in Parañaque City, two suspects in the killing of PO3 Cornelio Ramel were already in jail on drug-related charges while two others had died last year, police said.

Police Supt. Arnold Aguilar of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force said Ramel had been working undercover to bust the drug ring in southern Metro Manila when his body was found in an abandoned market in Parañaque on May 5, 2004.

Apart from Apruebo, police identified Ramel's other alleged killers as Jerry Solis and Edgardo Marquez, both of whom had been arrested earlier on drug charges. The two deceased suspects were identified as Ruzal Cuenca and Manuel Barreto.

"(They) were engaged in drug trafficking and gun-running activities," said a police statement. "Investigation indicated that PO3 Cornelio Ramel stumbled upon the group and learned about their criminal activities."

However, Ramel's true identity was discovered and he was killed, the statement added. It said Ramel's body was doused with muriatic acid, stuffed into a trash bag and hidden in the attic of an abandoned market.

A policeman linked to the killing, SPO1 Napoleon Cuernasma, was cleared for lack of evidence, police said.

"We consider this murder solved. The case is closed," said Aguilar.

Ramel is survived by his wife, Lorna, and two daughters aged 10 and 9.

No way out; 'last best hope'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.,
Jocelyn R. Uy,
Nancy C. Carvajal,
Tarra V. Quismundo
and Tina G. Santos

(This is the second installment of a two-part series on illegal money lenders—Ed.)

THEY PLY AN ILLEGAL TRADE. They charge excessive rates. But their clients claim they are "the last best hope."

Witness an ordinary daily scene in most streets in the metropolis: Indian nationals, usually on board motorcycles, wearing long-sleeved shirts,

SPECIAL REPORT

Project Editor
Recah Trinidad

dropping by homes, knocking on doors, visiting sari-sari stores, bakeries and barber-shops, collecting daily payments for their money-lending business.

For many, these money-lenders take advantage of people in dire need of cash. But for some, they provide immediate and accessible help to those starting a small business or those who are cash-strapped,

without having to go through a tedious process common in lending firms and banks.

For their countrymen, they are industrious individuals, who brave the heat and in going around houses of their borrowers, exposing themselves to dishonest clients or even robbers, just to earn a living.

Take it from 26-year-old AJ Singh, an Indian national who grew up in the country and inherited a money-lending company from his father. "Our father managed to raise our family through this business," he

Easy to handle

Standard Stow N' Go™ storage allows 2nd and 3rd row seats to be folded flat to the floor. Power Sliding Doors. Power Lift Gate. Standard DVD package. 3-year warranty.

Easier to own

As low as P125,000 downpayment or P23,850 per month*. Attractive financing schemes**



The 2006 Chrysler Town & Country.
The Consumers Guide Best Buy for 2006.

Test drive one today at CATS Motors Edsa.

CHRYSLER
INSPIRATION COMES STANDARD

*Based on MSRP downpayment of 10% and 36 months. **Subject to bank approval.

CATS Motors, Inc. (Branches) 1000 EDSA (Greenfield), San Juan, Metro Manila Tel. No.: 723-5808
Mobile No. 0917-400-2852 Fax. No. 729-7741 Email: chryslergroup@cats.com.ph Website: www.chrysler.com.ph



Press made on March 31, 2006
Pw D1-WCR Pwrrt No. A3 0238 Series of 2006



PLASTIC WOMAN

Plastic sacks are laid out under the sun to dry in Payatas, Quezon City. The sacks are later sold to junk shops dealing with recycled products.

Gonzalez is his own man

THE ARREST AND DETENTION of Linggoy Alcuaz, one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's arch critics, was bad for GMA's image. She needed it like a hole in the head.

Alcuaz is charged with malversation of public funds before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

He was arrested based on a warrant of arrest issued by the court.

But the police could have put off Alcuaz's arrest much later, not at this

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

time when the President is receiving backbats from all sides.

One wonders whether or not somebody from inside her camp is sabotaging GMA.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez may be a loyal follower of the President, but he is his own man.

Gonzalez said the other day in Cebu City the recent series of Inquirer articles on the events lead-

GONZALEZ/A18

30 agents, probers join NBI

By Tina G. Santos

THIRTY NEW AGENTS AND SPECIAL investigators have been added to the roster of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

According to NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring, the new recruits graduated last Friday after undergoing the basic training course.

He added that the additional manpower will augment the dwindling NBI personnel.

"There is a shortage in manpower because of difficulty in recruitment," Mantaring said, adding that those willing to join the agency have to go through strict screening.

The NBI official added that he is just waiting for the special order or recommendation from the NBI Directorate Staff before the new recruits can be deployed to different divisions.

There have been suggestions to assign the new graduates to the Intelligence Service Division under lawyer Edmund Arugay or to divide them among the investigation division and regional offices.

Of the 30 new recruits, eight (three lawyers and five certified public accountants) were designated as agents while the rest, college graduates of different college courses, were appointed as special investigators.

Mantaring added that only lawyers and CPAs are qualified to become NBI agents.

"Right now, there are more special investigators than lawyers in the investigative and intelligence units," he said.

NBI sources attributed the dwindling number of lawyers in the bureau to the less than attractive pay being offered by the bureau.



FRENCH Ambassador Gerard Chesnel holds a child, one of several rescued from Manila's mean streets. Mayor Lito Atienza (partly hidden, right) and Chesnel were at yesterday's opening of the temporary shelter for homeless families in the city, a project of the French government.

France connects with homeless

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY opened a temporary shelter for homeless people, among them children, who had been rescued from the city's streets.

Funding for its construction came from the French government and was channeled through the Viriane Foundation.

The shelter can accommodate 100 people. It has 25 double-deck beds and a wash area.

Among those who attended the inauguration were city officials led by Mayor Lito Atienza and French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel.

"The children do not belong to the streets. They have to be given proper care, sustenance and education and this is what we continuously strive to provide," Atienza said.

The new facility—an extension of the city's Reception and Action Center (RAC) on Arroceros Street—was built to accommodate disadvantaged persons in the city and improve the services being provided by RAC for its beneficiaries.

The RAC is an auxiliary organization of the Manila Department of Social Welfare and the Manila Police District that serves as a temporary home and clearing house for street children, mendicants, vagrants, wayward youth, old people who have been abandoned or neglected and abused or stranded persons in the city.

It also provides social, administrative, dietary and medical services to about 500 people, including babies and the elderly.

St. Paul 'adopts' St. Andrew's graduating students

By Jocelyn R. Uy

GRADUATING STUDENTS OF ST. ANDREW'S School in Parañaque City, which has been closed since Feb. 20 due to an incident of mercury exposure, returned to the classroom on Tuesday.

The classes for the students, however, were not held in the school, which remains closed, but in St. Paul's College, which is just a few meters away from St. Andrew's.

"They are going to take their periodical test on April 1," Estrellita Nery,

the principal of St. Andrew's, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Meanwhile, other students are on a home-study program, which began two weeks ago. Every Monday, the students go to the St. Andrew's Parish Church to get their learning worksheets that contain one week's worth of lessons and activities, said Nery.

"They also return the modules every Monday. We will be having this kind of learning exercises until the school reopens," she added.

Once health officials declare the

school safe for reopening, teachers will go over the worksheets together with the students, Nery said.

According to Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center, the mercury level in the school has remained high.

Post-test results showed the mercury level as being above the threshold of two micrograms/cubic meter which is considered toxic to humans, Tayag added.

School officials declared a holiday beginning on Feb. 20 after 11 students

were hospitalized for symptoms of mercury exposure following a class experiment on Feb. 16.

Thirteen students were hospitalized at the Philippine General Hospital after they came down with symptoms of mercury exposure. They were later released although one remained at the hospital for further observation.

Health officials said it would take about three to six months before the students, teachers and staffers could be given a clean bill of health.

Gonzalez is his own man

ing up to the aborted coup on Feb. 24 was neither seditious nor libelous.

The justice secretary's statement contradicts the stand of the Armed Forces of the Philippines that the articles in question were libelous and seditious.

So, even if the military makes good its threat to file sedition and libel charges against this newspaper, who will file those cases for them?

The cases, if they are to be filed at all, will have to undergo preliminary investigation by a fiscal (prosecutor).

The prosecutor is under the supervi-

sion of the secretary of justice.

And since the DOJ chief said the articles were neither libelous nor seditious, can the prosecutor overrule his boss and file a case in court?

Neophyte Sen. Jamby Madrigal should not have crossed swords with the elderly Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile on the Senate floor.

It was a mismatch.

JPE is an intellectual giant while Jamby is a pygmy.

Next time Jamby should pick a fight with somebody her size.

The JPE-Jamby fight proves once again the truism that those who live in glass houses should never throw stones.

A bidding for the job of housekeeping at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 should be done again.

This is to preclude suspicions that the bids and awards committee (BAC) was biased against one of the participants.

Mercury Dual Line Corp., which was disqualified from the bidding, said the BAC chair showed partiality toward PRC Manpower System, although the firm was not able to submit the re-

quired tax clearance certificate.

The BAC chair claimed Mercury failed to submit the required mayor's permit.

But the firm insisted it had the permit.

Mercury said that somebody at the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) legal department removed all the certified true copies of the mayor's permit from all four sets of Mercury's submission papers.

If Mercury's accusation is true, the bidding was *lutong manao* or already a done deal in favor of whoever won.

METROBRIEFS

Three hurt in mishap

THREE PERSONS, including a former mayor, were injured when their car slammed into the back of a 10-wheeler truck along the North Luzon Expressway at dawn yesterday. NLEX traffic supervisor Jong Sapiera identified the victims as Leonardo Velasco, 74, former mayor of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte; Rose Velasco, 56 and Joseph Sotto, 45. Sapiera said the three were on board a Honda City (VHA 471) when the car hit the truck in front along Kilometer 11, near the Balintawak Interchange. The victims were brought to the Manila Central University hospital in Caloocan City for treatment. The driver of the truck and his two companions, on the other hand, were not hurt in the incident.

Nancy C. Carvajal

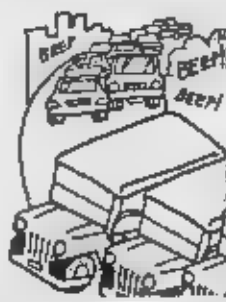
Korean trader found dead

A 45-YEAR-OLD Korean businessman was found dead inside his sports utility vehicle in Paco, Manila, on Monday night. The victim was identified as Ku Kug Jin, a resident of Patag St. in BF Homes Parañaque. Police said Ku, who reportedly owned the Full House Resort in Anillo, Batangas, and wrote for a Korean newspaper in Parañaque City, had been shot three times in the chest. His body was found inside his Ford Escape van (XN-1-233). SPO3 Diomedes Labarda of the Manila Police District Homicide Section said the victim left his house at around 2 a.m. Monday after talking to "an English-speaking person" on the phone. A scavenger contacted the police after noticing the foul odor coming from the victim's vehicle which was parked on General Luna St. Paco. Labarda said they were still in the process of identifying the suspects.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Drivers stage protest

TRAFFIC was snarled along the Bonifacio Monument circle for almost three hours yesterday when nearly 50 jeepney drivers plying the Sangandaan to Malabon route and vice versa parked their vehicles on the road. The drivers stopped plying their routes starting at 7 a.m. to protest the operation of *calorums* (illegal) jeepneys which they said has affected their earnings. The protest action affected hundreds of passengers bound for Malabon and Sangandaan. The drivers voluntarily dispersed three hours later after Senior Insp. Abner Castro, head of the Traffic Management Group, and Jun Nicol of the Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management held a dialogue with them and promised to look into the matter.



Police watching warehouse

THE POLICE have started keeping watch over a chemical warehouse in Pasay City which residents claimed has been operating illegally. Wilfredo Ortaliza, chief of Barangay 12, Zone 4, where Chase Chemical Trading is located, sought police assistance on Tuesday night after he and other residents allegedly saw men unloading several bags of chemicals from a 40-foot trailer van, P03 Alberto Sambillon said. Ortaliza told the police that he has not issued a license to Ben Tio, the warehouse owner, to operate in the barangay. After a check with City Hall, police discovered that Tio was not given a mayor's permit and license to operate in a residential zone.

Jocelyn R. Uy



FREE COMPUTER COURSES

Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna led the ribbon cutting ceremony during the recent inauguration of the Dennis H. Lacuna Computer Center in Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Residents of District 6 in Manila can avail of free computer courses at the center.

No way out; 'last best hope'

said in fluent Filipino.

His father initially used to pick up payments from homes of close friends who became his first clients. Singh now collects weekly, some payments even come in the form of post-dated checks. The company is also registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Since relatives and friends who have lived here for several years were already in to money-lending, many in the next wave of migrants also went into the same business.

Borrowers were charged a 20-percent interest through a scheme that became popularly known as "5-6." For example, a P5,000 loan would be eventually repaid as P6,000. Payments are made daily for 40-60 days. Borrowers can pay bigger daily payments and shorten the span of the loan, but the interest rate would not change. There is no paper work required, just a notebook to list daily payments that are picked up in

clients' homes or stalls.

Lifesavers

Michael, 25, who works in a barbershop in Mandaluyong City and has been turning to Indian nationals for loans in the last two years, said money-lenders are lifesavers. But they could also be annoying sometimes, he added.

"There are lenders who are very considerate. But there are also many who are ill-mannered," he said. "Some lenders go around early in the morning, with the doors barely open for business."

There are also those who curse borrowers who do not pay on time, said Betty, a flower vendor. "Business is slow sometimes, but some lenders do not understand this," she said.

But there are also stories of borrowers running away from their obligations.

Though he himself lost P200,000 when a borrower fled, Singh still believes most

Filipinos are honest. His friends were also victims of street robbers, but he said "this is part of the business."

Competition is growing, but not only between Indian Nationals who have chosen to settle in the country. Filipino lenders have copied the daily payment and interest scheme of the Indians, said Michael. "We welcome those who have followed our style. They are now finding out for themselves that this is a good business," Singh said.

Heroes

For most market vendors, the "Bum-bays" are heroes who come through in the worst of times. Liba Castillo, who has been in the food-catering business since 1985 in Pasay City, said she wouldn't have lasted long, if not for the "5-6" lending scheme.

"If you pay your loan on time, they even lend you double the usual amount the next time around," Castillo said, adding that it

was even easier to borrow from Indians than from fellow Filipinos.

"When you tell the Indians you can't pay today, they will just drive off to another borrower without making you pay double the next day," she said. "And if you need money tomorrow, they will really come back and give you the money the next day."

Erinda Magudayao, who sells cooked food in Caloocan City, said the interest she pays remains the same since she became a borrower 23 years ago. Filipino lenders, apart from being rude, also jack up the interest rate if you fail to remit your daily payment, she added.

According to Alice Reyes of Barangay Pio Del Pilar, Makati City, Indian lenders are more reliable than any other capital assistance program, with no papers to process, just the promise of honoring one's word.

"I had nowhere else to get the capital be-

cause there's no one else in the family working and my husband had passed on," said Reyes, a single mother with two children.

Up against the wall

A 45-year-old Indian national who has been residing and doing business in the country for more than 20 years now, said the number of his clients continues to increase through the years. He said this could be because he offers flexible, collateral-free loans.

"My terms and conditions are simple," he said. "I think that's basically what people want." Apart from cash, he offers various items, from umbrellas to blankets, cell phones and home appliances.

Up against the wall, with no one in their dear motherland to rescue them, poor Filipinos are forced to embrace their "last best hope," even if many turn out to be selfish, cheating money lenders.

Vehicle registrations hike LTO revenues to P9.6B in 2005

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) has reported an increase in revenue collections last year, due mainly to the continued rise in motor vehicle registrations in the country, particularly in Metro Manila.

Based on the agency's records, it collected a total of P9.62 billion in 2005, up

by 3.58 percent over the P9.26 billion collected during the previous year.

This made the LTO the third largest revenue earner for the government, next to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

The bulk of the increase came from a P339-million hike in motor vehicle user's fees collected by the agency, from P6.88 billion in 2004 to P7.22 billion last year.

According to the LTO, there are 5.06 million motor vehicles registered in the country as of 2005, up by 6.28 percent from the 4.76 million reported at the end of the previous year.

The National Capital Region has the most number of registered vehicles with 1.58 million plying Metro Manila's roads while the region which registered the highest increase, percentage wise, was

Region 9 or Western Mindanao. The number of registered vehicles in the area rose to 148,698 units last year, up by 13.46 percent.

According to the LTO, it collected a total of P283.4 million in fines in 2005, representing a 6-percent increase from the P267.4 million collected in the previous year. Most of those who were fined had violated the Clear Air Act or were ap-

prehended for smoke belching or had forgotten to use seatbelts.

A 21.45 percent increase in collections for seatbelt use violations was reported last year. All told, motorists across the country paid P40.2 million for failing to wear seatbelts while driving.

Collections from smoke belchers, on the other hand, declined to P26.7 million, down by 33 percent.



in behalf of the regular appointment of

HONORABLE NARCISO B. NIETO

as Undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform

WHEREAS, an era in governance under serious turmoil occurred very recently;

WHEREAS, time and again, the Department of Agrarian Reform has become the common center stage where sentiments on agrarian reform and other relevant issues and disputes are openly ventilated;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agrarian Reform, under the intelligent stewardship of a high caliber manager, in the person of Honorable Datu Nasser C. Pangandaman, Al Haj, have been able to surmount all forms of crises, amidst prevailing economic, political and social uncertainties;

WHEREAS, Honorable Nasser C. Pangandaman, who is the incumbent Officer-In-Charge of the Department of Agrarian Reform and Honorable Narciso B. Nieto, the present Acting Undersecretary for Field Operations, has conspicuously demonstrated **dexterity** in managing public affairs; **prudence** in the disposition of multifarious concerns; **fairness and equitability** in resolving conflicts, wisdom by instilling discipline, harmony and propagating high morale among his constituencies in the Department; **effectiveness** of his programs; **efficiency** in implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program; **compassion** for the underprivileged and marginal sector of society; **dedication** to public service; and, particularly, his **unwavering loyalty** to the Constitution and the present dispensation under Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

WHEREAS, Honorable Nasser C. Pangandaman, who rose from a prominent, decent, and esteemed family in Mindanao, gained respect among his peers and clients not only for his heritage, but more particularly for his sterling record in public service;

WHEREAS, Honorable Narciso B. Nieto, considered by his peers as an institution in the areas of Rural Development and Urban Planning having rose from the ranks started as Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer for 9 years, Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer for 4 years, Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer for 2 years, Assistant Regional Director for Operations for 2 years, and Regional Director for 6 years.

WHEREAS, Honorable Narciso B. Nieto, is a consistent excellent performer in the area of Land Acquisition and Distribution having been a recipient of the Undersecretary's Award for Outstanding Regional Director in 1999, twice Outstanding PARO in 1994 and 1995 and Outstanding MARO in 1989;

WHEREAS, bequeathed with exemplary qualifications coupled by their unparalleled accomplishments, vision for the successful implementation of a genuine agrarian reform throughout the country, and unyielding philosophy to serve, Honorable Nasser C. Pangandaman and Honorable Narciso B. Nieto, possess the qualities that will catapult DAR into greater heights;

WHEREAS, we see the foregoing merits as sufficient to warrant the appointment of Honorable Nasser C. Pangandaman as Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform and Honorable Narciso B. Nieto as Undersecretary for the Department of Agrarian Reform;

WHEREAS, to substantiate President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's goal for a strong Republic, the total emancipation of the marginal sector of society from the clutches of feudalism, as originally envisioned by no less than the President's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, and to waive, for one moment and for the first time, the helm of direct management and supervision over the affairs of the Department of Agrarian Reform,

THIS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Which is composed of the National, Regional, and Provincial Executive Officers of the DAR Employees Association (DAREA), Representatives of the different Bureaus and Offices in the Department of Agrarian Reform

DO HEREBY PROCLAIM AND MANIFEST ITS STRONG RECOMMENDATION AND OVERWHELMING SUPPORT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF

HONORABLE DATU NASSER C. PANGANDAMAN, AL HAJ

AS SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

And

HONORABLE NARCISO B. NIETO

AS UNDERSECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

And to let this MANIFESTO be known to all people in this land.

Done this 10th day of March 2006 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

1. Prin
 2. Prin
 3. Prin
 4. Prin
 5. Prin
 6. Prin
 7. Prin
 8. Prin
 9. Prin
 10. Prin
 11. Prin
 12. Prin
 13. Prin
 14. Prin
 15. Prin
 16. Prin
 17. Prin
 18. Prin
 19. Prin
 20. Prin
 21. Prin
 22. Prin
 23. Prin
 24. Prin
 25. Prin
 26. Prin
 27. Prin
 28. Prin
 29. Prin
 30. Prin
 31. Prin
 32. Prin
 33. Prin
 34. Prin
 35. Prin
 36. Prin
 37. Prin
 38. Prin
 39. Prin
 40. Prin
 41. Prin
 42. Prin
 43. Prin
 44. Prin
 45. Prin
 46. Prin
 47. Prin
 48. Prin
 49. Prin
 50. Prin
 51. Prin
 52. Prin
 53. Prin
 54. Prin
 55. Prin
 56. Prin
 57. Prin
 58. Prin
 59. Prin
 60. Prin
 61. Prin
 62. Prin
 63. Prin
 64. Prin
 65. Prin
 66. Prin
 67. Prin
 68. Prin
 69. Prin
 70. Prin
 71. Prin
 72. Prin
 73. Prin
 74. Prin
 75. Prin
 76. Prin
 77. Prin
 78. Prin
 79. Prin
 80. Prin
 81. Prin
 82. Prin
 83. Prin
 84. Prin
 85. Prin
 86. Prin
 87. Prin
 88. Prin
 89. Prin
 90. Prin
 91. Prin
 92. Prin
 93. Prin
 94. Prin
 95. Prin
 96. Prin
 97. Prin
 98. Prin
 99. Prin
 100. Prin

[illegible]

[Handwritten signatures and scribbles]

ATTEST.

J. P. [Signature]
Conviction Secretary

Antonia M. Pascanu
DATE: 11/11/2011

DOI: 10.1002/for

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

The WORLD

Thaksin may step down but only temporarily

BANGKOK—THAKSIN SHINAWATRA SAID Wednesday that he would consider stepping down temporarily as Thailand's prime minister, after weeks of raucous demonstrations accusing him of corruption and demanding his resignation.

Thaksin did not elaborate on when, and for how long, he would consider stepping down.

He made his comments in north-eastern Thailand while campaigning for snap elections he has called for April 2 in hopes of refreshing his mandate and deflating the country's growing anti-government movement.

Critics have suggested that Thaksin step aside before the snap

polls and appoint a neutral replacement to oversee proposed reforms to the constitution, a move that would help defuse growing protests.

When asked by a reporter what he thought of stepping aside, he said: "It is a good proposal, and I am considering this."

Thaksin's statements came amid speculation that he already has designated a replacement, Deputy

Prime Minister Chutchai Wannasathit, who on Tuesday was unexpectedly promoted to the No. 2 position in the Cabinet and charged with security affairs. Chutchai is a longtime, trusted associate of the Thai leader.

"This does not mean that I would bow to mob rule. I have to take some time to consider and decide what to do, because I have a duty to complete my mission," he told reporters during a campaign tour in the northeastern province of Buriram.

He indicated that change was not imminent, saying he planned to return to his office in Bangkok on Thursday to chair a planning session for celebrations this summer

for King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 60th anniversary on the throne.

"I have to attend the meeting, because it is very important," he said.

The prime minister still enjoys solid support from the rural Thai majority in the countryside, despite the growing protests led by the urban elite in Bangkok.

Critics accuse the tycoon-turned-politician of corruption, mishandling a Muslim insurgency in the south, stifling the media and allowing family members and cronies to gain from state policies.

Tens of thousands of protesters

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra prays in Nakhon Ratchasima province, about 250 km east of Bangkok, March 15. REUTERS

gathered Tuesday near Thaksin's office in Bangkok and camped out overnight, vowing to stay until he resigns, in the latest mass demon-

stration in recent weeks. The demonstrators suspended their vigil early Wednesday with plans to reconvene in the evening. AP

UN to tackle Iran nuke crisis Friday

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SECURITY Council on Tuesday agreed to hold a first formal meeting on the Iranian nuclear crisis Friday amid continuing wrangling over a draft statement urging Tehran to suspend uranium enrichment.

The council's five permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—held an informal session with their 10 non-permanent colleagues to discuss elements of a Franco-British draft text on the issue. Diplomats said council members agreed to meet again informally on Thursday and formally on Friday.

Their meeting followed an informal gathering of the so-called Perm-5 earlier Tuesday that sought to bridge differences over a proposed council statement on Iran, suspected by the West of seeking a covert nuclear weapons capability.

The text, among other things, calls on Iran to comply with demands set by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including restoring full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities.

Iran is also asked "to take the steps needed to begin building confidence in establishing the exclusively peaceful purpose of its nuclear program." AFP



FESTIVAL OF COLORS

A girl and a child look on with color smeared on their faces, as they celebrate Holi, the Hindu festival of colors, in Allahabad, India, March 15. This exuberant festival originally held to celebrate the fertility of the land, is also associated with the immortal love of Hindu God Krishna and Radha. AP

Sectarian strife in Iraq escalates

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE BODIES OF MORE than 85 executed men have surfaced across Baghdad in the past two days, in Sunni and Shiite neighborhoods, providing more graphic proof of sectarian strife and spiraling lawlessness.

Many bodies bore marks of torture—badly beaten faces, gagged mouths, rope burns around the neck—though it remains unclear who is responsible.

The wave of killings has called into question the US government's statements that Iraqi security forces can reverse the slide toward chaos. Less than a month after an assault on a Shiite shrine nearly plunged Iraq into all-out civil war, the blood continues to flow, just as freely.

Many of the street executions happened in the same areas where Shiite militia men rampaged in the days after the shrine attack, suggesting that no one is able, or willing, to stop them.

"We blame the government, entirely," said Daffar al-Ani, a spokesperson for the Iraqi Consensus Front, one of bigger Sunni political parties. "These hangings, these killings in the night, they have the signature of police commandos."

On Tuesday morning, police recruits sank their shovels into a shallow grave alongside a highway and turned up the bodies of 29 unidentified men, bound, bandaged and shot. NYT

Milosevic's body to be flown to Serbia for burial

AMSTERDAM—THE BODY OF Slobodan Milosevic will be flown to Belgrade on Wednesday for burial, almost five years after the former Yugoslav leader was sent to The Hague to stand trial for war crimes.

The remains of Milosevic, who died of a heart attack in jail just months before a verdict, were expected to arrive in Belgrade in the afternoon, but there was no immediate indication when the funeral would take place. Milosevic's lawyer announced the decision for a funeral in the Serbian capital following wrangling between the Serbian government and hardliners over restrictions posed by Belgrade.

Son Marko had said that he would consider a Moscow funeral if it was not safe for his mother to travel to Serbia.

A Serbian court said Milosevic's widow Mira Markovic, who fled to

Moscow in 2003 to avoid charges of abuse of power, would not be arrested if she returned home. But she will face a court hearing and her passport will be confiscated, the court said.

Belgrade has refused a state funeral for Milosevic, who ruled for a decade as Yugoslavia imploded in conflict during the 1990s.

The country has turned westwards since Milosevic was overthrown in 2000. His death has increased pressure on Serbia to arrest Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic, both accused of genocide by the UN tribunal, as a price of progress on European Union membership.

Milosevic's family has accused the UN tribunal of murdering the former Serb strongman by refusing his request to travel to Russia for medical treatment. Reuters

Dan Brown grilled in 'Da Vinci Code' case

LONDON—THE LAWYER REPRESENTING two historians who accuse Dan Brown of copying their work in his bestseller "The Da Vinci Code" told a British court on Tuesday he suspected the author had lied in his evidence.

Brown, in the witness box for a second day, was forced to defend his assertion that he had not read "The Holy Blood, and the Holy Grail" when he came up with the idea for his thriller.

Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh, co-authors of the 1982

"Holy Blood" book, who are suing Brown's British publisher Random House, allege that he lifted their ideas wholesale.

Part of Brown's defense has been to say he

wrote the synopsis for "The Da Vinci Code," one of the most successful novels with sales of around 40 million copies, before he became familiar with the "Holy Blood" book.

"You acquired a copy of 'Holy Blood, Holy Grail' before you accept in your evidence you did," said the historians' lawyer Jonathan Rayner James. "There are very few dates, let alone exact dates, in your witness statement." Brown, 41, said neither he nor his wife, Rhyne, who is also his assistant, had used ideas from the book for his synopsis.

There are seven books listed in the partial bibliography for

"The Da Vinci Code" synopsis, written in Jan-

uary 2001, but "Holy Blood" is not among them.

"That is the clear piece of evidence to me that 'Holy Blood, Holy Grail' was not around when I wrote the synopsis," said Brown, adding it would have been in his interest to add the work to his bibliography in order to impress his publisher.

Both books share the idea of Jesus marrying and having a child by Mary Magdalene and their bloodline being protected by the mysterious Priory of Sion, a theory greeted with outrage by some Roman Catholic leaders.

The publicity-shy author was forced to answer questions in the full glare of the world's media for a second day. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Thai activist cleared of libel

BANGKOK—A Thai court cleared media activist Supinya Klongnarong on Wednesday of criminal libel of the business empire founded by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Shin Corp.'s civil libel case against Supinya, claiming 400 million baht (\$10 million) in compensation for suggesting it was a major beneficiary of government policies, was now likely to be dropped, her lawyer said. "The court ruled that all the defendants were not guilty," a judge said reading the verdict of the Bangkok Criminal Court. Supinya's opinion expressed at a seminar was made in good faith and did not insult Shin Corp., he said. Shin Corp. accused Supinya, 32, of criminal libel, which could have landed her in jail, by suggesting in a 2003 newspaper article that government policies were tailored to benefit the company. Reuters

Russia to ship uranium to India

NEW DELHI—India Tuesday said that Russia had agreed to its request to supply uranium for two of its nuclear reactors, a foreign ministry official said. Russia is a member of the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) that controls trade in atomic fuel, which has long been denied to India after it conducted nuclear tests and refused to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The official said Russia had informed the NSG of its decision to supply fuel for the reactors at Tarapur in western Maharashtra state. "To India's request, Russia has agreed to supply a limited amount of uranium fuel for the safeguarded units 1 and 2 of

the Tarapur Atomic Power Station," Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna told reporters in New Delhi. AFP

Koizumi visits justified

TOKYO—A Japanese court Wednesday rejected a suit alleging that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's 2004 visit to a Tokyo war shrine violated the constitution. Kyodo News agency reported. Koizumi has visited Yasukuni Shrine five times since taking office in 2001, triggering protests from critics who say the shrine glorifies militarism, and prompting a string of lawsuits. The suit in Matsuyama in western Japan alleged that Koizumi's visit violated the constitutional separation of religion and state. Yasukuni honors Japan's war dead, including executed war criminals. AP

US Marines move to Guam

WASHINGTON—The US military will move around 8,000 marines from Okinawa to Guam by 2012 as part of an agreement on the realignment of US forces there, a Pentagon spokesperson said Tuesday. The number of marines to be relocated is about 1,000 more than the Pentagon originally estimated when it signed an agreement on October 29 with Japan regarding the US military presence in Japan, said Lieutenant Colonel Brian Maka. "Upon further analysis, it looks like ... roughly the number is going to be about 8,000 (marines)," he said. The United States estimates the move will cost around \$10 billion, and wants Japan to pick up 75 percent of it. he said. AFP

Worst ever oil spill in Alaska's North Slope

LOS ANGELES—UP TO ONE million liters of oil have leaked from a damaged pipeline in Alaska's North Slope, the worst spill in the region's history, authorities said Tuesday.

The leak, apparently caused by metal corrosion, was detected March 2 in the United States' largest oil field in Prudhoe Bay, which lies about 1,040 km north of Alaska's biggest city, Anchorage.

In its latest report on the incident, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation estimated that 760,000 to one million liters of oil have spilled into 0.8 hectare of

tundra and frozen lake surface.

The previous estimate released last week said 220,000 liters of crude had spewed onto the tundra.

The biggest crude leak on the North Slope until this month's spill had been a 127,500-liter spill in 1989. The extreme cold weather has hampered the cleanup operation, the environmental department said.

"The priorities are still to vacuum up the oil and collecting the contaminated snow, to make sure the tundra is not contaminated," department spokesperson Lynda Ciguere told AFP. AFP



NUDE PROTEST

Australian model and actress Imogen Bailey poses nude for a new advertisement for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific in this undated handout photo. "I'll gladly bare my skin if it will help save animals' skins," said Imogen. Reuters

E-mail: m_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your **feedback**: Inquirer sort name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ **UST, UE overall champs** /A24

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower • TOMAS MORATO 3/F CKS Center • BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg. • ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Prabell Bldg. • CEBU 7/F Keppel Centre 234-0851

SPORTS

A22

POC okays new cage federation's constitution



COJUANGCO: A go

From page A21

Association of the Philippines (BAP)?

BAP president Joey Lina, in a statement faxed to media offices yesterday, continued to question the move designed to replace the 60-year-old cage body. He has vowed to exclude himself from future meetings of the major stakeholders.

"It would be unthinkable for me to attend meetings aimed at the destruction of the very organization I am president of," said Lina.

He maintained that the best way to have the Piba suspension lifted is to incorporate the major stakeholders

—the POC, the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA—into a restructured BAP.

Lina also accused the other stakeholders of abandoning an earlier agreement to heed his proposal and of easing him out of the talks.

But the stakeholders' group is willing to wage a battle against the BAP all the way to the Court of Arbitration for Sports to get a new federation in place before the end of March.

"Who is Lina for the four of us (stakeholders)?" asked Mark Joseph, who co-chairs the POC basketball panel with legal counsel Ding Tanjunatco.

"The best way to protect basketball

is to form a new federation, which is what Fiba told us to do. Who will we follow, Fiba or BAP? We'll take it to the Court of Arbitration if Fiba refuses to accept the new organization."

In his press statement, Lina insisted that the stakeholders cannot form a new organization without the formal expulsion of the BAP by the Fiba.

The PBA, PBL, UAAP, NCAA and Lina were the five stakeholders named in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the POC and the Fiba last year.

"This organization is association-based and not personality-based," said

PBA commissioner Noli Eala. "We are not serving individual interests here; we are protecting the interest of basketball in the country."

Lina said the "surest and fastest way to lift the suspension" is to amend the BAP constitution and by-laws.

But Joseph said that Lina's proposal was "rejected by the major stakeholders" since they did not want "to become liable for BAP's mounting financial and legal liabilities."

He also questioned Lina's capability to "persuade the 51 directors of BAP to amend the by-laws."

Frank Elizalde, IOC representative

to the Philippines, remained optimistic about the new cage group's prospects.

"We will leave the doors open to those who refuse to accept the reality of the situation," said Elizalde.

"I want to make it very clear that Mr. Lina and us have the same intention and that is to unify Philippine basketball," said Eala. "We just differed in the way we wanted to do it. In the end, the stakeholders decided to comply strictly with the MoU."

The PBA will occupy six board seats, the majority in the 15-man board of Pilipinas Basketball.

COURSE RECORD

Balasabas' 68 makes a bang

By Musong R. Castillo

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—JESSIE BALASABAS yesterday turned in a round never before seen in this demanding course.

The 23-year-old native of Zamboanga turned the wooded layout upside down, shooting a course-record four-under-par 68 to overhaul a four-shot deficit and zoom ahead by four over Rufino Bayron halfway through the 2nd National Caddies' Open.

Balasabas did not miss a fairway and shot five birdies against a solitary bogey for a level 144.

He looked ready to slay the ghost of last year, when he missed the 54-hole cut by one shot and failed to make it to the first batch of products of this event's long-term program.

The fifth in a brood of eight of a crane operator based in Jolo, the 5-foot-10 Balasabas was on target for a top 10 finish last year when he tripped with a 79 in the third round in Canlubang.

"Right after Canlubang, I immediately went to Mr. Manotoc [Tommy, head of the caddies program] in hopes that he'd take me in at Calatagan," Balasabas, who has been caddying at the course since last year, said in Filipino.

"I am the most surprised that I shot a 68."

Canlubang standout Abe Rosal held the previous low of 65. But it was achieved from the white tees that were about 530 yards shorter than the championship blue tees being used for the tourney.

Only 36 of the 102 starters are left to fight it out in the final 36 holes, beginning with the third round today at Cargolf North, where Balasabas

failed to make last year's final 18 at Wack Wack.

Bayron, after a 72 on Tuesday, struggled to a 76 and dropped to second at 148. He stood four shots clear of Mark Fernando, another Zamboanga native who turned in a second straight 76 (152).

Efren Robles of the Navy was the first bet from the Big City to crash the Top 5, shooting a 75 for a 157 aggregate and a share of fourth place with Lanang's Rodol Revillera, who turned in a 79.

Apo Golf teeners Paul Echavez and Zannie Boy Gialon ballooned to 82s, after similar 76s on Tuesday, and dropped to a share of sixth. Four shots behind Bayron in joint second spot overnight, Echavez and Gialon lay at 158, in a tie with Lanang's Israel Bisera, who fired a 76.

Marapara Golf's Joleo Torrecampo shot an 81 and Angelito Anzuarez of the Veterans Golf Club turned in an 80 for joint ninth place at 159 with three others in the tournament supported by the PSC, San Miguel Corp., and Pagcor and organized by the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation.

Jeff Tumbaga of Camp Evangelista and Gary Sales of Villamor turned in 81s and Jonathan Dixonson of Mactan Island Golf assembled a 78 for similar 160 tallies.

Balasabas hit three of his four birdies in the back side, picking up shots on the 10th, 13th and 15th holes with birdies from as far as 15 feet.

He also birdied Nos. 1 and 6 and gave one back on the seventh when he almost shanked his approach from 120 yards.

Bayron had four birdies, six bogeys and a double on 13th—which he eagled on Tuesday.



JESSE Balasabas reacts after missing a birdie putt on No. 18. BY ARABAS

Valencia tests Pagadian five as NBC south action begins

PAGADIAN CITY—ACTION IN THE SOUTHERN phase of the 2006 National Basketball Conference kicks off tomorrow as the Pagadian Explorers host Valencia Golden Harvest here.

The Explorers of Mayor Sammy Co, one of the expansion teams in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Sulphur Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Molten, Nature's Spring, Regent Foods and official cable carrier Prime Channel, hope to make a big start with the backing of their home crowd.

Co said the Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galano Jr. "would be hard to beat."

"But we'll do everything to start our campaign on a winning note, just like what Batang Tagaytay did last week when it beat Pangasinan Hundred Islands in Tagaytay City," Co said.

The Explorers finished second to inaugural champion Tribu Sugbu in the NBC-Nature's Spring pre-season leg in Tagaytay City.

On Saturday, it's the Iligan Crusaders' turn to host another expansion team—Gow Manny Pihol's North Cotabato Braves.

The Firefly-backed Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz hope to do better this time. Last year, the Crusaders lost to reigning NBC champion Ozamiz Cotta in the semifinals after taking a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series.

But the Crusaders are expected to have their hands full against the Braves, who ruled the pre-season leg in Pagadian.

"Our fans are eagerly waiting to see our team in action," said Cruz. "I expect a full house when the boys play North Cotabato."

NBC opened last Friday with Spring-Panañaque of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana beating Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila and Tagaytay beating Pangasinan.

What price Wimbledon?

I NEVER LIKED THE IDEA.

Bjorn Borg selling his five Wimbledon championship trophies makes me sick. I can not imagine him doing that.

Once upon a time, Bjorn Borg was one of the wealthiest athletes that roamed the Earth. Why it had come to this, why he had to do what he intends to do, it's beyond me, beyond us all.

But then, who am I to judge him? Who are we to pass judgment on anyone?

It is obvious Bjorn Borg needs the money, otherwise he'll never do what he plans to do: Auction his five Wimbledon trophies and two signed rackets he used. He is broke, period. He'll earn more than half a million American dollars (\$521,100) from the sale. Big money to anyone in dire straits—and Bjorn Borg is in, well, deep shit. Debts. Negative bank balance. Hole-laden pockets. Empty wallet.

No one is really spared from life's miseries. Rich or poor, celebrity or obscure, each one has a problem. You don't have a problem, you are dead meat. Still, why we cling on to something (life) we couldn't hold on to is—like love—a mystery we all love doing anyways.

I was his fan. From 1976 to 1980, the years Bjorn Borg won Wimbledon, I played tennis almost every day at the Ruzal Memorial tennis courts. Copied his forehands to the hilt. Even with my late-night drinking bouts at that time, I'd always report for my morning tennis—hangover notwithstanding. Found out tennis was good at removing spirited toxins from the body.

In those days, I also idolized Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg's arch-rival. Later, John

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



McEnroe would be Connors' No. 1 foe for world tennis supremacy.

Connors and McEnroe were Borg's exact opposite: Temperamental and seemingly seething always, like a volcano always about to erupt.

Borg was the quintessential Mr. No Emotion. He loses a point, even a won-point, you'll never see him lose his cool. He just loved what he was doing: return all kinds of shots with monotonous regularity. No fanfare. No frills. No bombasts. He was Mr. Ice-man to the core.

Nobody succeeded in intimidating Borg. In those days, anybody playing Borg was virtually playing against the Great Wall of China, whether it was a thunderous serve, a booming volley or a screeching forehand you dished at him, Borg would return them all with the ease and calmness of a spider spinning its web.

With his flying locks and a consistency from the baseline that frustrated everyone who confronted him, Borg became the most recognizable face on earth five straight years from 1976 to 1980.

When he left tennis after almost a 10-year reign as its king, I must admit I was affected. Soon, I'd drift to golf, which I'd consider one of my best moves ever. Golf is so good a

sport you can play it whether you are five or a hundred and five.

Initially, Andre Agassi showed interest in Borg's Wimbledon trophies. I hope Agassi, 35, would really pursue his plan and secure the five trophies and other mementos of Borg, 50, in a safe place, as in a museum.

Wimbledon, as we all know, is synonymous to everything good that tennis stands for.

Said Agassi, who won Wimbledon in 1992, about the auction planned for June: "It's not right. The only way you should have a Wimbledon trophy is if you win it, not buy one. I can't make any judgment on Bjorn, but I can say that the thought of a Wimbledon trophy being in the hands of somebody who has a lot of money is upsetting. Wimbledon is the greatest tournament in the world."

Hemingway, a decorated war hero, once wrote, "What price valor?"

He had no answer.

Borg could very well ask, too: "What price Wimbledon?"

Does he have an answer?

Go, figure that out.

FASTBREAK Like my fellow Sixties Kids that include Mario Bengzon, Ed and Mynang Pamintuan, Ramon and May Uy, and Marvin and Pia Velayo, I'm all set to watch the Herman's Hermits perform at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow. Thanks to Steve O'Neal and Solar Entertainment for their commendable efforts at bringing in the Great, Big Bands of the '60s. Cheers!

Comments to menju@pltdsl.net

UAAP to bare probe result; NCAA tightens admission policies

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP COMMITTEE TASKED to probe the La Salle eligibility scandal has wrapped up its investigation and will release its findings by next month.

The fact-finding committee, headed by Fr. Eraldo de Sagor of the University of Sto. Tomas, completed its interviews and data gathering on the case involving Archers Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchalian.

The five-man panel is expected to finish drafting the report this month. It will then present its findings to the board in April.

In a released statement yesterday, La Salle said that its board of trustees "decided to leave the final decision to the UAAP board" on whether to suspend La Salle in all events next season or "consider La Salle's leave of absence in the men's basketball event only."

Meanwhile, the NCAA will enforce stricter admission policies

starting next season to avoid the UAAP experience.

Incoming student-athletes who will submit certificates of the Philippine Educational Placement Test must now sit out for one year before suiting up for a team.

"We all know what happened with La Salle in the UAAP and we don't want that to happen," said Fr. Vic Calvo of Letran, the league's outgoing management committee chair. "Admission of PEP tests will be strictly checked—double-checked and triple-checked. There will be a one-year residency before we allow them to play."

The PEP Test is a government exam taken in lieu of a high school diploma.

College of St. Benilde will be the host of the 82nd NCAA season. Incoming management committee chair Bernie Alerza and policy board head Edmund Fernandez represented St. Benilde during the turnover rites yesterday at Letran College.

SPORTSWATCH

51 entries lead Largahan at Roligon

AFTER TWO DAYS OF BATTLE, 51 PARTICIPANTS LEAD THE PACK IN ROLIGON Mega Cocker's Largahan 5-Cock Derby, which has lured a field of 360 entries. The third and final elimination round starts at 2 p.m. today with 120 fights on tap. The qualifiers will dispute the championship this Saturday. Among the frontrunners are Tos Reyes, Ed de Guzman, Arnold Fernandez, Gerry Paraguya, Charlie Espiritu, Nen Mansansad, Juan Jordana, Neil Rodin, and E. R. Garcia. Host Roligon has put up a jackpot prize of P2 million, for an entry fee of only P4,400. Ligon said the bonus prize, a brand new Toyota Vios, will go to the fastest win champion. Derby sponsors are Lakoue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enerstone.

Quirino, La Union derbies backed

A TOTAL CASH POT OF P500,000 IS AT STAKE IN THE QUIRINO SPECIAL 4-COCK Derby this Friday at the Quirino Recreation Center in Sigayay, Quirino province. The event, hosted by Gov. Pete Bacal and ERC, in cooperation with Thunderbird Platinum, requires an entry fee of P22,000 and a minimum bet of P11,000. Also coming up is a 5-cocker set March 20 at the San Fernando Sports Complex in San Fernando, La Union. The derby dangles P500,000 in total prizes and is hosted by Mayor George Pinzon and sponsored by Thunderbird Multi-Grain Conditioner. The derby enjoys the support of Rep. Manuel Ortega, Mayor Joaquin Ostrea, Vice Mayor Alfred Concepcion, and the Luna, Bangor Cockers and Maluan cockers.

Vilog, Catil brods shine in nat'l triathlon

FORMER NATIONAL CHAMPION George Vilog showed his mettle in the inaugural leg of the Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon 2006 series held in Davao City last Sunday.

Vilog clocked 1 hour, 33 minutes and 25 seconds to rule the tough 25-29 age group of the event that drew a record turnout of 93 racers at the Waterfront Insular Hotel.

Other victors were Paulo Quirino, who timed 1:47:46 in the 20-24

group; Jeremias Baquiano, 1:53:11 (30-34); Cagayan de Oro's Christopher Borlongan, 1:56:41 (35-39); Mati's Felix Moulla, 1:49:08 (40-44); Waterfront's Nick Rivas, 2:00:24 (45-49); Gem Romero, 2:04:01 (50-54); and Ernesto Rivera, 2:14:48 (55-59).

Brothers Neil and Vic Catil, finished first and third, respectively, in the below-20 age group to lead a host of prized finds.

The series marked the first time

that the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap) increased the race distance to 1K swim-30K bike-7K run. It also paved the way for the return of the team relays.

"The Triathlon Association of Davao (Triad) together with local organizer Vic Sai has done a good job of promoting triathlon in the region," said Trap president Tora Carrasco Jr., who presented the medals and prizes to the top finishers.

There were a total of 47 individual entries and 46 relay team entries in the race as Triad, headed by Alexander Sam and vice president Ernesto Rivera, went all out to meet their target number of participants.

Davao City will be the venue of the second Speedo-NAGT race sponsored by PowerBar, David's Salomon, Asian Center for Insulation, Metro Alliance Group and the PSC, on March 26.

Heat reduce Jazz to ashes

MIAMI—DWYANE WADE scored 25 points and Alzono Mourning hit a season-high 19 as Miami Heat scorched the Utah Jazz, 121-83, on Tuesday to register their 12th win in 13 games.

Miami had six players in double figures, including 13 from Shaquille O'Neal in just 18 minutes of play as the

Heat rolled to their fourth biggest margin of victory in franchise history. James Posey with 16, Gary Payton with 12 points and Jason Williams with 10, also hit double figures for the Heat.

Matt Harpring paced Utah with 20 points while Carlos Boozer was the only other member of the Jazz to hit double digits with 12 points.

The Heat got the contest off to a storming start, charging to a 41-14 first quarter lead led by Wade's 19 points there.

Miami eased up in the second quarter but still entered the intermission with a commanding 62-40 lead.

The Heat, however, were quickly back in charge after the break, outscoring Utah 39-22 to leave the Jazz no way back.

In Seattle, Raja Bell scored 25 points and Shawn Marion had 24 and 11 boards as the Phoenix Suns won a 129-120 shootout over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Tim Thomas contributed 23 points on

near-perfect 10-for-11 shooting and Steve Nash added 23 points and eight assists in the Suns' 13th win in 15 games.

In Sacramento, Mike Bibby bagged 29 points and Ron Artest added 28, leading the Kings to a 114-98 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, extending their win streak to a season-best five games.

In Philadelphia, Chris Bosh scored 31 points and Darrick Martin had a season-high 18 points and 12 assists to lead the Toronto Raptors past the 76ers, 111-97.

Playing without the injured Allen Iverson, the Sixers were led by Chris Webber's 23 points and 11 rebounds and John Salmons' career-high 23 points.

The Sixers (31-32) lost for the fourth time in five games and fell 3½ games behind Atlantic Division-leading New Jersey.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Antawn Jamison had 35 points and 16 rebounds as the Washington Wizards tripped the Bobcats, 119-114.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Jake Tsakalidis scored a season-high 19 points and matched his career high with 16 rebounds to spark a 94-76 Grizzlies rout of the Boston Celtics.

In Chicago, Ben Gordon scored 23 points, and Chicago used its best defensive effort of the season to beat Portland, 95-66.

The Bulls play at Milwaukee on Wednesday night and are 2½ games behind the Bucks and 76ers, who are tied for seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 20 points and 11 assists, Brent Barry made four 3-pointers and all six shots from the floor, and the Spurs crushed the fading New Orleans Hornets, 96-81.

The Spurs (50-14) share the top record in the Western Conference with the Dallas Mavericks.

Reuters, AP
● NBA on SOLAR SPORTS: 8 a.m. Detroit vs Toronto (replay at 8 p.m.)

Hingis topples Davenport

INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA—MARTINA HINGIS toppled Lindsay Davenport to reach the quarterfinals of the Pacific Life Open Tuesday, continuing a comeback that has amazed even her amazing compatriot Roger Federer.

Former world No. 1 Hingis triumphed, 6-3, 1-6, 6-2, over the second-seeded American as they renewed a rivalry that stretches back more than a decade.

Meanwhile, Switzerland's current world No. 1 Federer had to play his way out of a jam against Belgian Olivier Rochus, finally emerging with a 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 third-round victory over the world No. 32.

"It's always special to play Lindsay," said Hingis, who has surged up the rankings to her current No. 32 since her return in January after

three years away from the game.

The two were meeting for the 25th time, but for the first time in what Hingis calls the second phase of her career.

"It's definitely not easy mentally for me to play her," Hingis said. "Now I know that I have the potential to meld with the best."

It wasn't a classic. The 29-year-old Davenport was diagnosed with a bulging disc in her lower back on Thursday which no doubt contributed to her 42 unforced errors.

"I thought she might crack the top 30 at the end of the year," Federer said of Hingis. "Here we are probably thinking she has a shot at winning a Slam. It's quite incredible."



HINGIS: Probable Grand Slam winner

WORLD BASEBALL

D. Republic advances; Japan keeps hopes afloat

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—THE DOMINICAN Republic secured a berth in the next round of the World Baseball Classic on Tuesday, while Japan rebounded from a bitter loss to the United States to keep their title hopes alive.

The Dominicans held powerful Venezuela to just one hit in a 2-1 victory in San Juan, Puerto Rico, while Japan's offense exploded for 12 hits to crush Mexico, 6-1, in Anaheim.

Last week in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, the Dominican Republic whipped Venezuela, 11-5, but Tuesday's game was a low-scoring affair, highlighted by standout pitching.

Daniel Cabrera struck out seven over four scoreless innings and was aided by four relievers to shut down Venezuela.

"I've never pitched in a World Series game, but I don't believe I would have as much desire to do as well as I did today," the 24-year-old Baltimore Orioles starter said.

Miguel Batista got the win despite pitching to just one batter in the seventh inning.

A passed ball by Venezuelan catcher Ramon Hernandez in the bottom of the seventh with the bases loaded allowed Luis Castillo to score and give the Dominicans their winning run.

The Dominican Republic will now face the winner of Wednesday night's game between Cuba and Puerto Rico in the WBC semifinals in San Diego on Saturday.

Reuters

Big motocross audience eyed

THE PUERTO PRINCESA LOCAL GOVERNMENT is expecting more than 70,000 spectators to watch the FIM-UAM 2006 Motocross Masters of Asia March 18 and 19, at the city's motocross racetrack adjacent to the city hall.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn said he expects the event to boost Puerto Princesa's tag as the country's sports tourism capital especially with cable giants ESPN and Star TV beaming the event to 540 million households worldwide.

FIM-UAM vice president and Namssa director Macky Carapied said last year's event also held in Puerto Princesa drew 70,000 spectators.

Twenty-five riders from 12 competing nations will be vying for the coveted crown in the centerpiece Asian Open 125cc class and the Junior Asian 85cc Class, the Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn Cup—a sterling silver trophy.

The Philippines' Revnex Glenn Aguilar, who was recently feted as the 2006 Golden Wheel International Award, admits he may have a hard time against younger rivals in the event organized by Namssa and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, the Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Import Services.

For details, e-mail namssa01@hotmail.com, call 0917-8992363 or check out www.asianmx.org.

Winston

in CONCERT

WINGS TOUR
2006

Morning Sessions
Featuring

Imago

Velcro

Stonefree

Fri. March 17, 7am
Atchie's Bar
6/F, The Orient Square Bldg.,
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center

Brought to you by:

No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry in those without IDs as proof of age.

Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

UST Tigers, UE juniors UAAP overall champs

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS WAS formally awarded the overall championship of the 68th University Athletic Association of the Philippines during the awards rites at the Adamson University Auditorium recently.

The Tigers, atoning for their dismal sixth-place effort in the centerpiece men's basketball, ruled eight of the 26 events contested and finished second in eight others to win mulling away with 302 points.

* University of the Philippines topped four events to place second at the expense of La Salle, which had five titles but fared poorly in other events.

"The UP Maroons compensated by placing second in four events and third in seven to snatch runner-up honors with 244 points, 10 up on the Archers.

UST swept table tennis and taekwondo and topped men's badminton and women's chess, judo and swimming.

Far Eastern University, the men's basketball tidist, improved to fourth overall—from fifth in Season 67—with 192 points despite not fielding teams in seven events.

Areneo slid to fifth with 180 points, claiming the men's football and women's basketball crowns.

Next year's host University of the East, which swept the fencing crowns, stood at sixth with 166 points; Adamson, the perennial champion in women's softball, was seventh with 87; and National U brought up the rear with 21 points.

Adamson U's Fr. Maximino Rendon, the Season 68 president, and Dr. Ricardo Matibag, the league secretary-treasurer, preside

over the awards ceremonies.

The Maroons reigned supreme in men's baseball, chess, judo and swimming, while the Archers were No. 1 in men's and women's tennis, women's badminton, football and volleyball.

UE amassed 101 points anchored on titles in chess, table tennis, girls' swimming and a sweep of boys' and girls' volleyball.

Runner-up UST garnered 79 points with only a title in taekwondo to show, a far cry from the five crowns it won last year. UST was second to UE in the two volleyball divisions and in table tennis.

La Salle-Zobel topped boys' basketball while Ateneo ruled boys' swimming.

Stockinger to show RP flag in European races

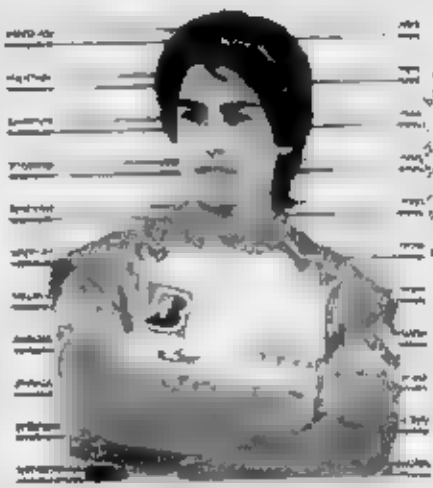
TWO-TIME WORLD FINALIST MARLON Stockinger will represent the Philippines in the Rotax Max Euro Challenge set March 25-26 in Salbris, France.

The 14-year-old Stockinger, who took the local Senior Rotax Max title last year, will be the youngest driver in the stellar field and the first Filipino ever to join the tough Euro Challenge.

"I will be up against the world's best karters like (World Rotax Max champion) Christiano Morgado of South Africa, said Stockinger, who is sponsored by Swiss Finance and Investment Corp., Accel, Birel Motorsport, Kart Care, Kartmore Racing Services, Bridgestone, Salon Prive, Lima City Hotel and Malaysia Airlines.

Stockinger will campaign in Europe with DR Racing, which is run by five-time world karting champion Danilo Rossi.

The other rounds of the Euro Challenge are slated May 20 and 21 in Lonsdale, Italy, July 29 and 30 in Vienna, Austria, and Sept. 23 and 24 in Belgium.



MARLON Stockinger takes a break in between heats in last year's Rotax Max World Finals in Malaysia.

Stockinger is also set to see action in the Italian Rotax Max Open in April, as well as this year's Asian Open Karting and Philippine Super Karting Series.

Basilan to host junior netfest

PEACE AND ORDER through sports will be showcased when the Basilan Tennis Club hosts the 2006 Mito Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop on March 17-19 in Isabela, Basilan.

"We hope to showcase the brighter side of Basilan, and the Milo tennis event will surely help us achieve our goal," project director and Basilan Judge Kaudri Jaurid said.

The Milo nestfest, organized by CTW and supported by Prince equipment and Adidas, is being coordinated with club president Totie Latip, his VP Benjo Abubakar, and officers Ramly Amping, Mac Sangkula, Del Halima and Rody Salip.

The nearby Lamitar Tennis Club, through youth director James Ramirez, will host the Milo beginners clinic on Mar. 18-19.

**LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

Tel. Nos. 522-0000, 526-0100 Call 1-800-451-0000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

<u>ITB No.</u>	<u>Item / Description</u>	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
2006-020	50 units Automated Teller Machines PLUS: Four (4) Year Maintenance Package	P 35,000,000.00 11,550,000.00 <u>46,550,000.00</u>	LBP Funds
2006-046	1,000 bdl's. Jacket for Savings Passbook with Logo, 5-5/8" x 4-1/8" Jacket for Savings Signature Card, 5" x 7-1/2" 1,000 pos. Checkbook Jacket, 8-5/8" x 7" 3,000 bdl's. Plastic Jacket for ATM Card (Green), 148mm x 103mm	P 214,500.00 1,845,000.00 13,500.00 855,000.00 <u>P 2,928,000.00</u>	LBP Funds
2006-053	22 units Multimedia Projector	P 2,164,800.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Cost qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on April 5, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 (ITB Nos. 2006-020) and P1,000.00 (ITB Nos. 2006-046 and 2006-053).

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on March 21, 2006 (ITB No. 2006-020) and March 23, 2006 (ITB Nos. 2006-046 and 2006-053) at the 25th Floor Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Makati, Manila.

For particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9134 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LANDSBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is the most advantageous to the Bank.

PD'S AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

[illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer.ent.name@agecity/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Please don't ask me!



Carmina Villaroel dodges reporters waiting to quiz her about Ruston

Mina and Ruston, a very long time ago, it seems. She is planning to wed Zoren Legaspi.

starmall ALABANG
Tel. No. 720 0140

METROPOLIS ALABANG
Tel. No. 600 4220

3: Hostel
4: Under Renovation
5: House of Fury

1: Fearless
2: Murder
3: Vengeance
4: Hostel

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!

Every Tuesday Stand-Up Comedy, Every Friday Live Acoustic Bands at Cebu Libre Bar StarMall Eden
Monday to Thursday Live Bands Every Friday Stand-Up Comedy at Mark's KTV Metropolis
Barbie Alonzo (Mar 17) River Maya (Mar 29) Metropolis Alabang
Babes Alonzo (Mar 29) StarMall Eden

For more details, log on to www.clickthechips.com

RUDY EMBRAS

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS CARMINA Villaroel, who has not commented on her ex husband Ruston Padilla's recent on-camera confession that he was gay, successfully evaded entertainment writers on Monday night by walking out of a press conference in Quezon City.

Carmina stepped out of the launch party for GMA 7's new soap series, "Majika," shortly before the question-and-answer portion, leaving behind co-star and current true-life partner, Zoren Legaspi, to answer questions about Ruston.

Ending years of speculation about his sexual orientation, Ruston admitted that he was gay on the March 1 episode of the reality

TV series, "Pinoy Big Brother."

A swarm of reporters who attended the party at the Oasis Restaurant on Monday cornered Zoren that night after Carmina's "escape." When a writer asked about Carmina's immediate reaction to Ruston's revelation, Zoren simply said: "Wala lang."

No big deal

He refused to say whether or not he and Carmina caught the controversial episode. "We can't comment on that. It's over between them," Zoren pointed out. "Wala na sa amin 'yung burden of proof."

In other words, the actor insisted, it really isn't a big deal. "Mina and Ruston have no more connection. In the future, if I bumped into him, I'd say hi, just like any normal person."

The coming out was actually one of Ruston's reasons for joining the reality show, according to a story published on abc-chnnews.com.

PLEASE! A2-4

Housemate faces Army discharge

By Joselle Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—"PINOY BIG BROTHER" celebrity housemate Gretchen Malalad has been recommended for discharge from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) due to unauthorized leave of absence since January.

The recommendation was issued by the Air Force Provost Marshal's office, which investigated her absence.

Malalad, accompanied by PBB director Lauren Dyogi, showed up at the summary investigation conducted Tuesday by the Provost Marshal at the Villamor Air Base.

"Malalad was recommended for discharge. Her case for discharge is now being processed," Col. Restituto Padilla, Air Force (PAF) spokesperson, told the Inquirer.

In a phone interview, Col. Arthur Abadilla, PAF Provost Marshal, also told the Inquirer that the investigation lasted more than two hours.

Career shift

Abadilla said the result of the probe will be forwarded to the Judge Advocate General Office (JAGO), the office of the personnel (A1) and the PAF Commanding General.

Padilla said Malalad told the Provost Marshal that she intended to leave the service to pursue a career in the entertainment industry.

"The service [will not stop] its personnel [from] seeking greener pastures," Padilla said.

Malalad was recruited into the PAF Special Services in October 2002 because of her athletic skills. She was a constant medalist in karate, having started in the 1999 Asian Karate Championship held in Singapore.

She was to have undergone basic military training January but failed to report. Instead, her superiors said, she busied herself with things other than her military job. She later reported to her unit, the Air Force Service Support Group based in Camp Villamor, but only to seek permission to join PBB.

Stipend revoked

"The PAF gave her an option—whether to stay or go," Padilla said.

Despite the non-approval, Malalad went on with her plan and joined ABS-CBN's reality TV show on February 5. Four days later, she was declared absent without official leave (AWOL).

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) said it was also revoking Malalad's allowance. Athletes of Malalad's caliber are entitled to a monthly stipend from the government.

Guillermo Iroy Jr., PSC executive director, said athletes who are not undergoing training are not entitled to said benefit.

"She is definitely not in training," said Iroy. "We see her everyday on Pinoy Big Brother."

MALALAD

#1 MOVIE OF THE WEEK! EDGE OF YOUR SEAT ACTION FROM START TO END.

BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF DAVID MORSE

10

RICHARD DONNER

NOW SHOWING

PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult

NOW SHOWING

LOVE IN DISGUISE

Amanda BYNES

She's THE MAN

ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?

Sa Globe,
'di pa rin tapos ang bonding kahit graduate na siya.



SUPER SULIT DEALS

P0.10 PER SECOND

Dial 232+10-digit Globe number of the party you're calling.

Ex., 232917XXXXXX

See flyers for details. Promotion extended until Mar. 18, 2006 as approved by DTI-NCR. PDI: NCR, Serial No. 1481 S. 2005.

P10 per 3-minute call

Dial 235+10-digit Globe number of the party you're calling.

Ex., 235917XXXXXX

See flyers for details. Promotion extended until April 15, 2006 as approved by DTI-NCR. PDI: NCR, Serial No. 1481 S. 2005.

Globe UNLIMITXT

For good na!

P15 / 1 day
P25 / 2 days
P50 / 5 days

For more info, text UNLIMITXT to 2870 for FREE.

Available to Postpaid and Prepaid on Globe-to-Globe calls and texts.

sa **Globe** posible



ENTERTAINMENT

Per cavity income, waiting the wings
and other boob-tube boobos

QUIZMASTER: LAHAT BA NG MGA STAND-UP comics, kailangang palaging nakatayo?
Contestant: Oo—stand-up sila, e (No, don't be so literal-minded!)

Host: We have been getting so many fires lately. What's happening, what causes them?
Guest: Different reasons. But one now becoming more frequent is, nagkakasung dahil sa nagpapayayang sasakyan ng appliances.

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

(Sasakyan ng appliances?—Oh, sasakyan.)

Host: Now that the challenge is over, what do you plan to do so you feel better?

Guest: Well, it was hard and muddy, so syempre maliligo ako, pupunta sa spa, at magpapapedicure sa kamay! (Aho daw?)

Host: Is the economy improving this year?

Guest: We think so. Our statistics show that there is a rise in the national per cavity income. (We have more money—but our teeth hurt!)

Host: After your modeling tutorial session, are you a better model now?

Guest: Yes, when I model now, my walk is more bouncily! (Ay, bouncily!)

Host: How much do you admire (name of beauty queen)?

Guest: Oh, so much! She was the one who idoled me to also join a beauty pageant! (Point of clarification: Who's the idol here?)

Host: Why did you join the recent political rallies?

Guest: Frankly, because I think our leaders now should be changed. They should be ousted from power! (Ay, ousted!)

Host: People say we don't have enough really good actors. Do you agree?

Guest: No, we have many good young actors, but they have not yet been given major roles, so they're still waiting the wings, as the saying goes.

(No, that's not how it goes...)

Host: How should this political conflict be resolved?

Guest: Through legal means, that's why they are threatening to bring the case to the court. (Ay, threatening!)

Host: What do you have to say to your friend who is leaving us now?

Guest: Salamat, ikaw ang bumuhay ng confident ko!

(Well, it's the thought that counts.)

Color It Red

AFTER a six-year hiatus, Color It Red has come out with a new album. The self-titled compilation has 12 original tracks. The carrier song, "Dalawa," is an upbeat love song that's now getting good radio airplay.

The band's current lineup is made up of original members Barbi Crist and Cooky Chua (vocals), Bopip Paraguya on bass, Jayvee Torres on drums and Sam Baja on keyboards.

MTV nominees

THE 2006 MTV Asia Awards will be held on May 6 at the Siam Paragon in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 50 Asian and international artists have been nominated; voting began last March 1.

My Chemical Romance bagged three nominations; James "You're Beautiful" Blunt copped two. Asian stars Stefanie Sun (Singapore) and Jay Chou (Taiwan) are nominated for the fifth consecutive year, while Wang Lee Hom (Taiwan), Tita Young (Thailand), Asha Bhosle (India) and Too Phat (Malaysia) are the local hot favorites.

Nominee Simon Webbe, whose debut single "Lay Your Hands" is a hit on the UK charts, will attend the May 6 awards rites.

JUICY FRUIT
Gimik Card

Buy 1 Take 1
Promo
EXTENDED!
February 13 to
March 31, 2006

Buy your Juicy Fruit



Juicy Fruit

Per BFAD Permit No. 0189, series of 2006

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway MALL Farmers Plaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX
IN THE COUNTRY

Cineplex*10

DIGITAL
BIG TALK-EE

BREAKING NEWS

1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00

HOUSE OF FURY

10:30 / 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30

SHE'S THE MAN

7:30 / 9:30

HOSTEL

1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30

YOURS, MINE & OURS

1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30

CASANOVA

7:30 / 9:30

V FOR VENDETTA

1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40

SHAGGY DOG

1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40

DATE MOVIE

16 BLOCKS

V FOR VENDETTA

1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

V FOR VENDETTA

1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

MALL CINEMAS

V FOR VENDETTA

12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00

HOUSE OF FURY

12:05 / 2:10 / 4:15 / 6:20 / 8:25

HOSTEL

12:15 / 2:30 / 4:45 / 6:30 / 8:35

SHE'S THE MAN

12:35 / 3:15 / 5:55 / 8:35

THE FEARLESS

12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20

HERMANS HERMITS - PETER NOONE CONCERT

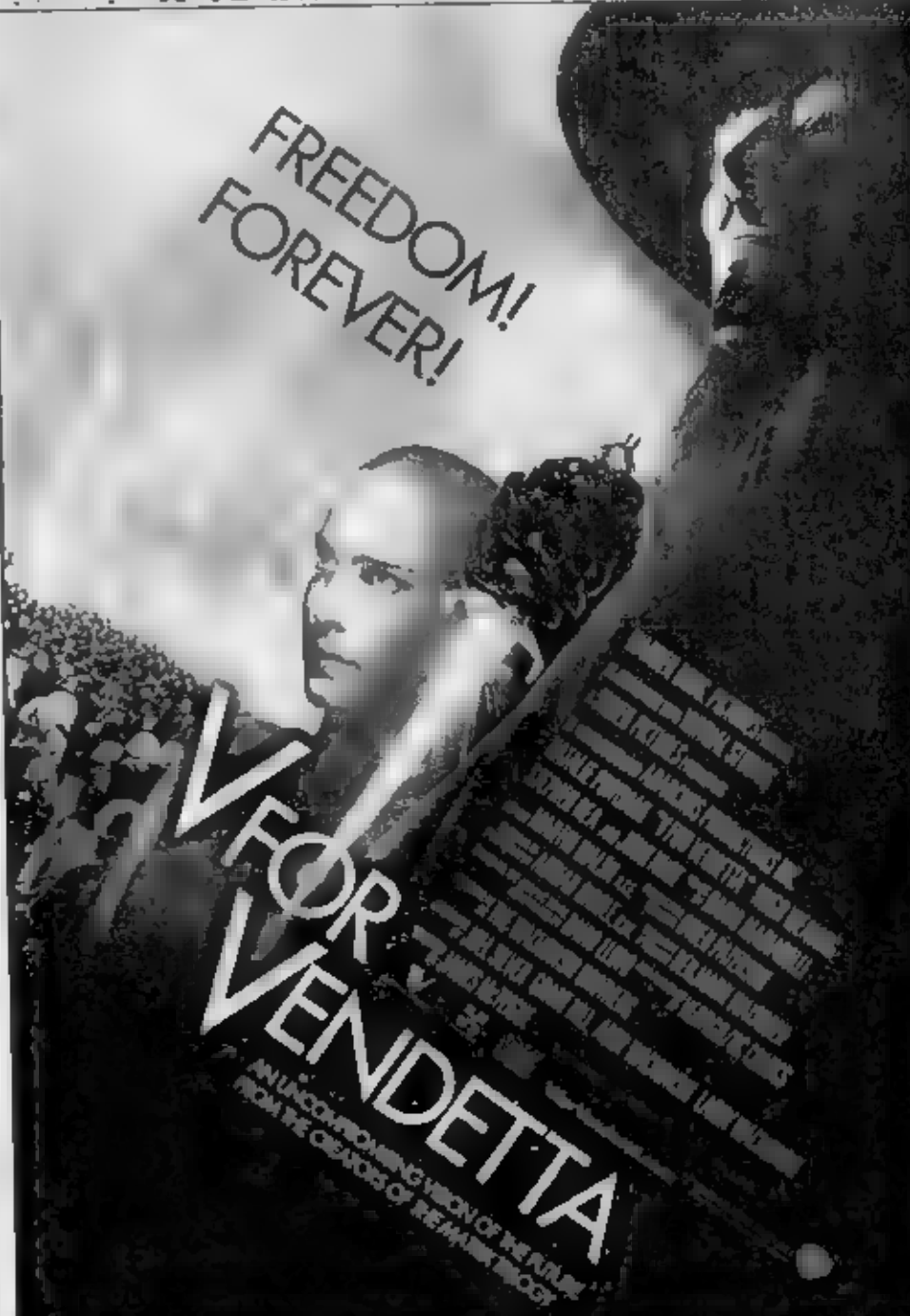
MARCH 17 FRIDAY 8 pm

SERGIO MENDES & BRASIL 2006

MARCH 18 SATURDAY 8 pm

NOW SHOWING

R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13YRS OLD AND ABOVE



SM CINEMA
movietime
BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

in good company
ENTERTAINMENT

Barbie & Rocksteady

MARCH 18, 2006 SATURDAY
SM MANILA CINEMA 4

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-9999

PODIUM	SM CITY MESA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL
V FOR VENDETTA 12:10 FS / 12:35 MF / 03:20 08:05 / 08:20 LFS 08:50 LMF / 11:05 END	BREAKING NEWS YOUR'S MINE & OURS BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 FEARLESS V FOR VENDETTA SHAGGY DOG SHE'S THE MAN CLOSE TO YOU THE DARK HOUSE OF FURY	V FOR VENDETTA SHE'S THE MAN UNDERCLASS MAN FEARLESS SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS BREAKING NEWS HOUSE OF FURY FINAL DESTINATION 3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE CLOSE TO YOU HOUSE OF FURY
SM MEGACINEMA	SM CITY STA. MESA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL
V FOR VENDETTA 10:30 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:45 04:30 / 07:15 / 09:30 LFS 09:55 LMF / 12:10 END	V FOR VENDETTA SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS SHE'S THE MAN FEARLESS THE DARK FINAL DESTINATION 3 CASANOVA CLOSE TO YOU	V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS HOUSE OF FURY SHE'S THE MAN YOUR'S MINE & OURS FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK RESERVED
SHAGGY DOG FEARLESS RENOVATION THE DARK HOUSE OF FURY BREAKING NEWS SHE'S THE MAN 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 CASANOVA CLOSE TO YOU	SM CITY STA. MESA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL
SM CITY NORTH EDSA	SM CITY STA. MESA	SM CITY SOUTH MALL
V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS HOUSE OF FURY RESERVED SHAGGY DOG SHE'S THE MAN FINAL DESTINATION 3 16 BLOCKS	V FOR VENDETTA CASANOVA THE DARK 16 BLOCKS	V FOR VENDETTA 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK
SM CITY DASMARINAS	SM CITY STA. LAZARO	SM CITY SUCAT
V FOR VENDETTA AEON FLUX BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE CASANOVA	FINAL DESTINATION 3 SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS HOUSE OF FURY SHE'S THE MAN	SHAGGY DOG V FOR VENDETTA 16 BLOCKS CLOSE TO YOU

Now
Share a movie with a loved one with 3rd Cinema's
50% OFF
treat on your 2nd ticket!
Starts on March 15 to April 30, 2006
Mondays to Thursdays

Buy one ticket and get your 2nd ticket at half the price. *Cannot be combined with other promos.
*Not valid with blocked screenings. *Some transaction only. *Not valid on holidays.

MEGAMALL • STA. MESA • MANILA • PODIUM • FAIRVIEW • SOUTH MALL
SAN LAZARO • PAMPANGABAGUIO • VALENZUELA • MARIKIN • MOLINO
BATANGAS • LUCENA • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO

SM CITY BAGUIO	SM CITY PAMPANGA
NEW WORLD CASANOVA YOURS, MINE & OURS V FOR VENDETTA	V FOR VENDETTA CASANOVA FINAL DESTINATION 3 CLOSE TO YOU FEARLESS 16 BLOCKS
SM CITY MARILAO	SM CITY LUCENA
CASANOVA SYRIANA 16 BLOCKS YOURS, MINE & OURS	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS SAW 2
SM CITY BATANGAS	SM CITY MOLINO
BLOODFIST 2050 FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS SYRIANA	V FOR VENDETTA THE DARK FEARLESS TIGER BLADE
SM CITY STA. ROSA	SM CITY DAVAO
LAST HOLIDAY FINAL DESTINATION 3 AEON FLUX V FOR VENDETTA	V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS FIREWALL FINAL DESTINATION 3 AEON FLUX 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY CAGAYAN	SM CITY DAVAO
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE 12:00 FS / 12:18 / 02:38 04:54 / 07:12 / 09:18 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:35 END	V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS FIREWALL FINAL DESTINATION 3 AEON FLUX 16 BLOCKS
SM CITY CAGAYAN	SM CITY DAVAO
V FOR VENDETTA 11:15 FS / 11:30 MF 02:00 / 04:30 07:00 / 09:21 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END	V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS FIREWALL FINAL DESTINATION 3 AEON FLUX 16 BLOCKS
SM CITY CAGAYAN	SM CITY DAVAO
NEW WORLD 11:15 FS / 11:30 MF 02:00 / 04:30 07:00 / 09:21 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END	V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS FIREWALL FINAL DESTINATION 3 AEON FLUX 16 BLOCKS
SM CITY CAGAYAN	SM CITY DAVAO
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 GOAL 16 BLOCKS CLOSE TO YOU FEARLESS	V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS FIREWALL FINAL DESTINATION 3 AEON FLUX 16 BLOCKS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

One, two, three, FREE!

Get 4 tickets for the price of 3!

This promo is valid only during the 3-day nationwide sale at SM Fairview & Dasmariñas from March 17, 18 & 19.

Not applicable with other SM Cinema promos.

Per DTIC-PCR Permit number A3-0010 Series of 2006.



SARAH Jessica Parker is cooking up a new project with the cable channel that carried her famous series.

'Sex' and the censors

HBO also has to contend with strict censorship laws

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT WAS NOT LOST ON "Sex and the City" fans who got to watch the "groundbreaking HBO Original Series" both on HBO Asia and the Japanese Wowow channel. On HBO, nude and bed scenes were curiously missing; on Wowow, the risqué segments remained intact.

For the adult portion of its viewership, could HBO guarantee unabridged versions of its shows and movies?

INQUIRER Entertainment posed the question to HBO Asia executives—Christopher Ho, manager of programming, and Caroline Wong, director of marketing communications. They explained that HBO, being a "commercial-free channel, doesn't answer to advertisers." Therefore, it is free to experiment, innovate and push the envelope, when it comes to programs

that tackle "prickly and controversial" issues.

Its Emmy-winning HBO Originals, "Sex and the City" and "Angels in America," "Six Feet Under" and "Sex and the City" prove this point. The regular movie fare is just as bold and varied. Where else can we catch the French film "Chaos" alongside "Shrek 2"?

Exclusive

"HBO has the biggest, newest and most of the Hollywood blockbusters of 2005," said Ho. "Our exclusive output deals with major studios ensure that 70 percent of the US Top 100 box-office movies of 2005 will debut on HBO. But we also offer movies from the art-house scene and those directed by up-and-coming directors."

Shown on its "Blockbuster of the Month" and "Saturday Nights" slots are movies deemed daring in subject matter.

Premiering this month are "Ray" (last March 11) and "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" (March 26)—the latter chronicles a bachelorette's romantic and sexual misadventures; the former tells the real-life story of iconic musician Ray Charles, including his womanizing and drug abuse.

"While we answer only to viewers," said Wong, "we respect

the censorship regulations in each country. So far, most of the time, almost 100 percent of our shows make it."

Does HBO have especially edited versions of shows and movies for the Asian market?

"It all depends on [what and where]," she said. "In the end, if the story is compromised as a result of censorship, we don't show it at all."

That must be the rationale behind the familiar caveat attached to HBO's advertisements of R-rated fare like "Sex and the City" and "Six Feet Under": "Not available in all territories."

Speaking of which, for those who couldn't get enough of "Sex and the City," star-producer Sarah Jessica Parker recently told Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show" that she was developing a new project with HBO.

Male version

"Until the dotted line is signed, we can't comment on that," the two execs said. "But something is in the works."

In the meantime, they suggested that Carrie Bradshaw fanatics catch "Entourage," a new HBO Original Series that, they promised, was "a male version of 'Sex and the City.'"

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2 Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries call **687-6963**
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHAGGY DOG 1 2:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 11:00 GP
V FOR VENDETTA 2 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00 R-13
SHE'S THE MAN 3 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35 PG-13
HOSTEL 4 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-18

POWER PLANT
Rockwell Cinema, Makati City
1101 Rockwell Center, Makati City

CASANOVA R13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	SHE'S THE MAN PG-13 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25	SHAGGY DOG G 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:20
16 BLOCKS PG-13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	HOSTEL R18 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25	V FOR VENDETTA R13 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 881-1401
MATHINEE P411.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 V FOR VENDETTA MTRCB R-13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF	3 HOSTEL MTRCB R-18 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 SHAGGY DOG MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 LMF	4 SHE'S THE MAN subject to MTRCB Rating 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15

16 BLOCKS
MTRCB 14, 15, 16, 4, 0, 6, 30, 0, 00
Movie times subject to change without prior notice.

Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang.
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1, 2, 3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre

Call 633-7891, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
Theatre District
Greenhills

1 SHE'S THE MAN PG-13	2 HOSTEL R18
3 V FOR VENDETTA R13	4 SHAGGY DOG GP
5 V FOR VENDETTA R13	

PROMENADE
Greenhills
Now Showing

MOVIE PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRY, CALL: 722-4496

MUSIC MUSEUM
Now Showing

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLEASE CALL: 721-8720 OR 721-0635

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB R-13
Suitable for 13 years of age and up

AMERICA THERE'S 'THE AMITYVILLE HORROR'... IN THE U.K. THERE IS 'THE DARK'...

A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY, A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY

In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called The Dark - an ethereal land of the dead - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has returned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.'

DARK
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

MTRCB PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old only to attend if accompanied by a parent or guardian

JACKIE CHAN presents
THE HOTTEST YOUNGBLOODS OF ASIAN ACTION CINEMA

HOUSE OF FURY
NOW SHOWING

Sa Globe,

p'wedeng ipagsigawan sa mundo na graduate ka na rin.

9:00 am

Calling...
Honey - Taiwan

9:23 am

Calling...
Elsa - States

9:32 am

Calling...
Ate - Canada

"Tapos na ang kapatid mo. Salamat at niraos din namin kayo!"

"Ate, graduate na pamangkin mo. Salamat sa mga naitulong mo."

Globe
Tipid IDD rates
US\$ 0.20/min.

Dial 12800 (country code)
(area code) (phone no.)

For Globe Postpaid & Prepaid.
Rate applies on calls to Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, and US.
Only calls with the correct dialing format will qualify for the promo.

Alamin kung anong oras sa kanila.
Text <time> <name of city> to 2333

See print ads for details. Promo until Mar. 25, 2006.
Per DTI-NCA Permit No. 1295, Series of 2006.

sa **Globe** posible



CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

032-9110

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN • THX | 6 SHE'S THE MAN |
| 2 V FOR VENDETTA | 7 BREAKING NEWS |
| 3 HOUSE OF FURY | 8 THE DARK |
| 4 SHAGGY DOG | 9 16 BLOCKS |
| 5 HOSTEL | 10 DATE MOVIE |

ERMITA

032-7800 to 12

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 5 HOSTEL |
| 2 16 BLOCKS | THE DARK |
| 3 SHE'S THE MAN | 6 SHAGGY DOG |
| 4 HOUSE OF FURY | 7 DATE MOVIE |

METRO EAST

032-9195 • 032-9199

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 5 HOSTEL |
| 2 SHAGGY DOG | 6 BREAKING NEWS |
| 3 DATE MOVIE | 7 16 BLOCKS |
| 4 SHE'S THE MAN | 8 THE DARK |

NOVALICHES

035-3231 / 035-3228-30

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN |
| 2 HOSTEL | 5 SHAGGY DOG |
| 3 HOUSE OF FURY | |

CITISQUARE MALABON

PIONEER

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 1 V FOR VENDETTA |
| 2 FEARLESS | 2 HOSTEL |
| 3 RESERVE | 3 SHE'S THE MAN |
| 4 RESERVE | 4 SHAGGY DOG |



Robinsons Movieworld
galleria-ermita-novaliches
The Shocking Video
that Rocked the Whole Country
MARCH 22 to 28
For SCREENING SCHEDULES, see each
CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 or visit us
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA. ROSA

LIPA

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 1 AEON FLUX |
| 2 HOSTEL | 2 HOSTEL |
| 3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN | 3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN |
| 4 TIGER BLADE | 4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS |
| 5 AEON FLUX | |

DASMARINAS

(046) 862-2126
(046) 416-4532

ANGELES

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 1 V FOR VENDETTA |
| 2 HOSTEL | 2 HOSTEL |
| 3 LAST HOLIDAY | 3 MURDER |
| 4 CASANOVA | 4 AEON FLUX |
| 5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE | |

IMUS

(045) 875-5838
(045) 471-8100

STARMILLS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 1 V FOR VENDETTA |
| 2 HOSTEL | 2 HOSTEL |
| 3 LAST HOLIDAY | 3 FINAL DESTINATION 3 |
| 4 CASANOVA | 4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN |
| 5 TIGER BLADE | 5 16 BLOCKS |
| 6 SHAGGY DOG | 6 CASANOVA |

BACOLOD

(034) 441-0463
(034) 441-0459

ILOILO

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 V FOR VENDETTA | 1 V FOR VENDETTA |
| 2 HOSTEL | 2 HOSTEL |
| 3 NEW WORLD | 3 CASANOVA |
| 4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE | 4 16 BLOCKS |
| 5 MURDER | 5 FEARLESS |
| 6 FEARLESS | 6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE |

ROUNDUP

Dream role

HONG KONG—Jackie Chan said his dream role would be a firefighter, but he thinks he's too old to play one.

"My wish is to bring my heroes to the big screen, and many of them have already appeared in my films. The firefighter is the only one I have yet to put in a film," the 51-year-old Chan said in a posting on his official website this week.

"I have dragged this idea on for so many years, even if I want to make it, now I feel that my age makes me unsuitable," the action star said.

Highlighting his affinity for firefighters, Chan recently served as ambassador for the World Firefighters Games held in Hong Kong last month.

Moving, sir?

LONDON—US pop singer Michael Jackson may be thinking about moving to Britain after he made enquiries about purchasing a stately home in

the country, a British newspaper said Sunday.

The former megastar and his three children have been staying on and off at Cliveden, a magnificent dwelling in Berkshire, southern England, for the past month, the Mail on Sunday reported.

The weekly said "it was understood" that Jackson, 47, had asked whether the mansion was up for sale, only to be told it belonged to The National Trust and was leased to a hotel group.

The star's official spokesman, however, told the newspaper: "It would surprise no one if Michael ended up staying in Britain." AFP

Recuperating

LONDON—Sean Connery has undergone surgery for a kidney tumor and is now recovering at home, his

spokesman said Sunday.

The 75-year-old Scottish actor underwent surgery a few weeks ago in New York and is recuperating at his house in the Bahamas, spokesman James Barron said.

"He's very fit—he's 100 percent plus," Barron said of the former James Bond actor.

Connery told The Sunday Times that he "was opened in five places."

His brother, Neil, told the newspaper, "As far as I'm led to believe, the tumor was benign." AP



'Maalaala' tonight

JOHN LLOYD Cruz heads the cast of tonight's episode of ABS-CBN's "Maalaala Mo Kaya." Cruz stars as a student implicated in an on-campus frat rumble. Jerry Lopez Sineneng directs from a script by Bong Ramos.

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING

SHANGHAI CINEPLEX 6th Floor Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Tel: 02-771-1227 / 02-771-1211	FILINVEST CINEMA (Mandaluyong) tel. 850-3571 or 72	ARROWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City) 2nd, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City Tel. 887-6963 or 72
1:00pm V FOR VENDETTA R12	1:00pm HOUSE OF FURY	1:00pm SHAGGY DOG
2:00pm SHAGGY DOG G	2:00pm FINAL DESTINATION	2:00pm V FOR VENDETTA
3:00pm HOSTEL R18	3:00pm DATE MOVIE	3:00pm SHE'S THE MAN
4:00pm SHE'S THE MAN	4:00pm HOSTEL	4:00pm HOSTEL
5:00pm SHE'S THE MAN	5:00pm SHE'S THE MAN	
6:00pm SHAGGY DOG	6:00pm SHAGGY DOG	
7:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	7:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	
8:00pm FEARLESS	8:00pm FEARLESS	
9:00pm CLOSE TO YOU	9:00pm CLOSE TO YOU	
10:00pm 16 BLOCKS PG-13	10:00pm 16 BLOCKS	

CINEMA 2000 Cinema 2000 Walmart Makati Walmart Center, Cinema Flores Ave. cor. Antonio Arzobispo Pkwy. Makati City Tel. 816-4214 / 816-4216	Blue Wave Sundaway Highway cor. Mayor Ed Fernando Street, Sta. Fe, Marikina City tel. 834-1977	Cinema 2000 Cinema 2000 Walmart (Calamba) tel. (049) 545-7383
1:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	1:00pm SHAGGY DOG	1:00pm THE NEW WORLD AEON FLUX V FOR VENDETTA HOSTEL
2:00pm SHAGGY DOG	2:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	2:00pm V FOR VENDETTA
3:00pm YOURS, MINE & OURS	3:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	3:00pm V FOR VENDETTA
4:00pm HOSTEL	4:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	4:00pm V FOR VENDETTA

starmall (Mandaluyong) tel. 726-1150	MARAGANA CINEMA (Pasig) tel. 833-3290 / 833-3274	Cinema 2000 Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel. (045) 982-1729
1:00pm FEARLESS	1:00pm FEARLESS	1:00pm YOUR MINE & OURS CRY WOLF FEARLESS
2:00pm SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN	2:00pm SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN	2:00pm BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3:00pm TIGER BLADE	3:00pm TIGER BLADE	
4:00pm RESERVED	4:00pm RESERVED	

metropolis star (ALABANG) tel. 858-4285, 843-3894	Center Mall Cinema Burgos Center Mall, Maguysay Avenue (Burgos City) tel. (074) 444-3446	Cinema 2000 Cinema 2000 Walmart (Pangasinan) tel. (0937) 795-3320
1:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	1:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	1:00pm DATE MOVIE / SYRANA
2:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	2:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	2:00pm DATE MOVIE / SYRANA
3:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	3:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	3:00pm DATE MOVIE / SYRANA
4:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	4:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	4:00pm DATE MOVIE / SYRANA

THEATRES 14 Pacific Mall, Cebu, Cebu Tel. (034) 800-3025	Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel. (045) 857-9121	Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel. 850-1276
1:00pm BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE	1:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	1:00pm SEX & ZEN SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
2:00pm BLOODRAYNE	2:00pm HOSTEL	2:00pm VISIBLE SECRET-1
3:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	3:00pm AEON FLUX	3:00pm V FOR VENDETTA
4:00pm V FOR VENDETTA	4:00pm BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN	4:00pm SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN

PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC Pacific Mall, Laguna Tel. (043) 800-5271	Cine Nepo (Taguig City) tel. (075) 545-8489	Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel. (049) 545-7202
1:00pm FEARLESS	1:00pm MEMORIES OF GEISHA	1:00pm V FOR VENDETTA
2:00pm RESERVED	2:00pm FEARLESS	2:00pm SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
3:00pm RESERVED	3:00pm FEARLESS	3:00pm THE NEW WORLD
4:00pm RESERVED	4:00pm CLOSE TO YOU	4:00pm AEON FLUX

Center Plaza Cinema (Batangas, Batangas) tel. (043) 237-7067	Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel. (043) 981-8780	Berna Cinema (Bacarra) tel. 879-2630 / 879-2029
1:00pm SAW-2	1:00pm AEON FLUX	1:00pm BLOODRAYNE
2:00pm FUR W/ DICK & JANE	2:00pm HOSTEL	2:00pm SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Please don't ask me!

From page A2-1

For years after he split up with Carmina in 1997, Ruston avoided the limelight by studying filmmaking in the United States and then venturing into the cosmetics business. He returned to the country last year, the website said, to introduce to the public "the Ruston that I've always wanted them to know."

On the show, speaking in Tagalog, he confessed to housemate Keanna Reeves: "I reached a point where I realized I had a different personality. I realized I was gay. Now I'm telling you, and telling the whole world—even if it's difficult because I'm not a bad person."

In an interview with the INQUIRER right after their breakup, Carmina was quoted as saying: "In fairness to him, I was not able to prove anything (that he was gay). It's all hearsay."

Wedding plans

Meanwhile, Zoren said, he intended to marry Carmina within this year.

"As far as we're concerned, we're already married," Zoren said. "But if it's a question of official documents, we still have none of that. We know that we need to work on that soon. We're studying all the legal implications, for instance, taxes and our children's status..."

The couple's twins, Cassy and Mavy, were born in the US and carry Zoren's surname. In "Majika," Carmina and Zoren play Garam and Ayesa, denizens of the fantasy world Saladin who escape the wrath of the wicked magician Markadan (Eddie Garcia).

According to the director Mac Alejandre, part of the "Majika" set is an existing tourist spot in Lemery, Batangas that was "blocked off" for four months just for the show. "It has existing castles and bridges. The new work built hamlets inside it," Alejandre said. "We also have sets in Zambales, Anipolo, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. We even shot some scenes on Mount Pinatubo."

The series, co-directed by Alejandre and Eric Quizon, premieres March 20.

The Perfect Gift
All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and event services, please call Marketing Services Department at 02-7945-1047 (local 11)

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

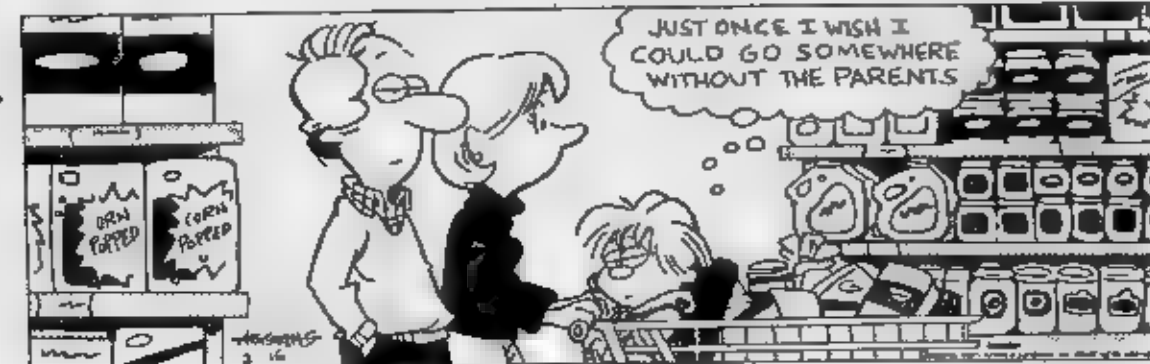


MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

FUGAD BABOY

BY EM. JUNIOR

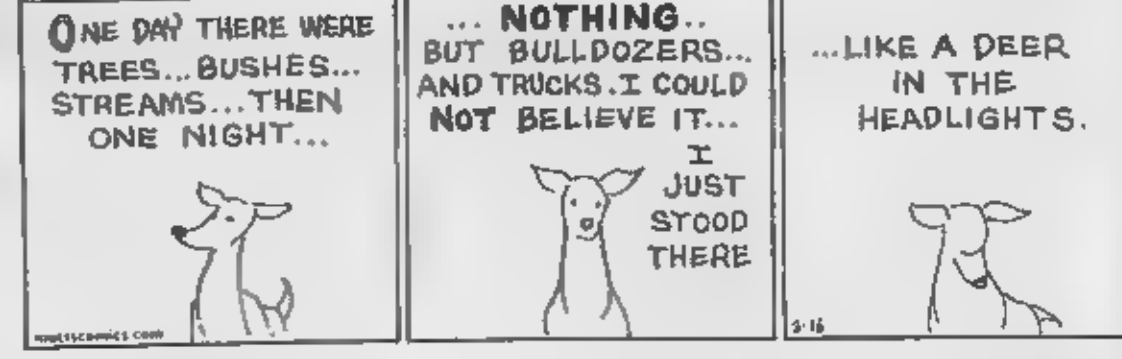


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



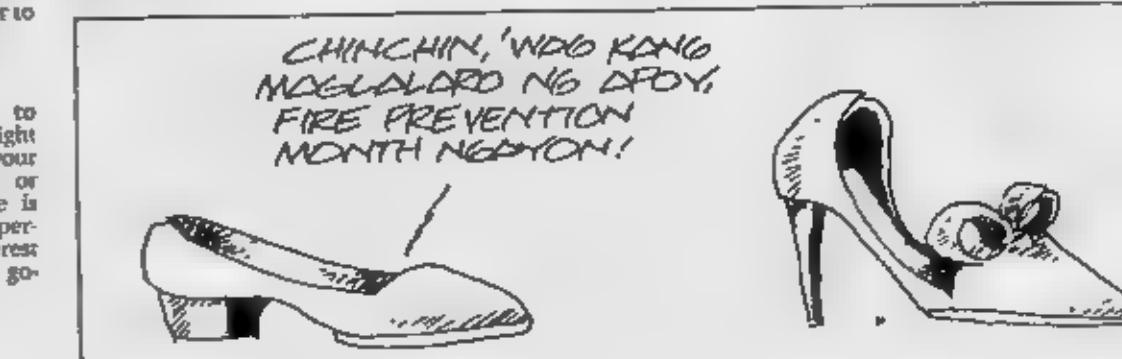
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



YOU BORN TODAY: You're very clever! You are both highly imaginative and practical. You feel good inside your skin. This self-confidence can bring out the best in others. You succeed because you can see what others want and how they think. This year is the time to let go of certain cycles in your life to create room for something new.
Birthdate of: Bernardo Bertolucci, director; Jerry Lewis, comedian/actor; Erik Estrada, actor.

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): You'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today. That's because the Moon is directly opposite your sign. Just decide to cooperate.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): This is a fun-loving, flirtatious day. You feel a bit prankish. Enjoy yourself. Take a long lunch. Play hooky if you can. It's a play day!
- LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is the day for busy little errands, short trips and taking care of tasks you've put off. Clean up what's on your plate. Multitask whenever you can.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to tidy up loose ends at work. Someone might seek you out for a quiet, confidential conversation. Be sincere and sympathetic.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): Focus on home, family and real estate matters today. Discussions with a parent could be significant. Listen carefully to family members.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Make friends with your bank account today. This is a good day to stay on top of your finances, pay bills and reduce your loans. It's also a good day to shop.

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Alan P. Olechewicz
Huntington Beach, CA

3/16/06

www.dailycrossword.com

EDINA VAGUE CER
SONAR ATOLL DO
PEEPERS WANDER
RACES NAOMI
MAIL RHN FASS
P. A. D. AN MA
LEAN AND LUCKY
STEIN ESTEEM
HALG FNEI SS
AGLE HINOJ
ROBER MOTOANU
MOI NOTES ONCUE
SAS STUN TEHEE

4 Alien of "The West Wing"
5 Business expense item
8 Desired
7 Aids in wrongdoing
8 Slangy OK
8 Final straightaway
10 Which trial locale
11 Mouthballs or bone
12 Earper
13 2,000 pounds
21 Ginkgo or palm
22 Verbaceous journey
26 Actress
27 Fe. Nil
28 Espy
29 Online chucido
31 Weasel-like mammal
32 Moves flash
33 Italian appeler
34 Born es

36 Eager
37 Before, before
40 Sharpen
41 Passed
42 Blackhoen
43 Heaps
46 Mini-racer
48 Met highlights
49 Closet liner

50 Blazing
51 Hogwash
52 Bum chaser?
54 Skunk Row state
56 Middle Eastern sultana
58 Small amount
59 Mr. Whitney

DOWN
1 Razor sharpener
2 Old hag
3 More inexperienced

NOW SHOWING

ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

TIM ALLEN is



THE SHAGGY DOG

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

ENTERTAINMENT



New in rock hall of fame

NEW YORK—AN UGLY FEUD AMONG Blondie members spilled over onstage and the Sex Pistols sent a rancorous letter. The latest Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class did not enter quietly.

The animosity even made Ozzy Osbourne, inducted with Black Sabbath, seem sedate.

Monday at the Waldorf-Astoria's grand ballroom, Lynrd Skynyrd performed the song that launched countless cigarette lighters, "Free Bird," to celebrate their own induction. Famed jazz trumpeter Miles Davis completed the honorees.

Punk rockers the Sex Pistols had turned down the honor in a profane letter that compared the hall to "urine in wine." Rolling Stone magazine founder Jann Wenner read the letter, and invited the band to pick up their trophies at the rock hall in Cleveland.

"If they want to smash them into bits, they can do that, too," Wenner said.

Osbourne may be better known now as an addled reality TV star, but his musical legacy with Black Sabbath got its due with the band's induction.

Davis was inducted by fellow jazz musician Herbie Hancock.

Southern rockers Skynyrd made much of its memorable music before a 1977 plane crash killed singer Ronnie Van Zant and guitarist Steve Gaines.

"No one deserved to be here more than Ronnie Van Zant," said his widow Judy, "and he would truly be honored."

The hall also is giving a lifetime achievement award to Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss, founders of the influential A&M Records label.

Inductees are honored at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum in Cleveland. Highlights of the 21st annual ceremony will be shown on VH1 on March 21.

Lovers' quarrel or dead end?

AFTER ADMITTING ON NATIONAL TV THAT they're hopelessly in love, are Alicia Mayer and Joey Marquez headed for Splitsville? A GMA 7 insider told me that during the taping of "Lagot Ka... Isusumbong Kita" last Friday, the lovers did not talk to each other. The "dedmahan" continued to the taping for "Hocus Pocus" on Tuesday. Is it just another lovers' quarrel or have they reached a dead end? It wouldn't surprise me if a third party surfaced as the cause of the breakup. Party over, Pareng Joey?

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Ann Carvajal

Reunited

"Majika," GMA 7's newest teleserye, unfolds on March 20, reuniting Angel Locsin and Dennis Trillo who were last seen together in the record-breaking TV remake of "Darna."

Angel and Dennis almost fell in love many heartbeats ago but friendship prevailed over love. Their on-screen chemistry creates a mirage of being lovers. What could be more magical than that?

Angel admits that her boyfriend Oyo Boy Sotto suffers intermittent pangs of jealousy. Whenever the trailer of "Majika" is aired, she warns him, "The kissing scene is up next. Close your eyes!"

I asked the two lead stars what magical power they'd like to have. Angel said: "To be invisible at will—like when I do something embarrassing!"

As for Dennis: "To turn back time so I can correct my mistakes. I'd like to travel back to my high school days. I'm happy now but I can't afford to be carefree anymore, unlike when I was a student."

Eric Quizon, who co-directs with Mac Alejandre, explained how "Majika" is more challenging than "Darna": "Darna is already a brand, part of Pinoy culture. 'Majika' is a new concept that we still need to sell. Second, the work is more tedious since we are dealing with a heavily effects-laden concept (magic). It's like doing 'Harry Potter' on a daily basis. Third, our group is coming from the success of 'Darna' so there is pressure to come up with an even better show. Lastly, as a director I'd like to improve my work and 'Darna' is a tough act to follow. But the challenge makes me want to excel."

(E-mail: wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.)

R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

IN THE ACTION TRADITION OF 'HEAT'!

WHILE THE HEADLINES ARE BEING BROADCAST, THE WORST SCENARIO IS HAPPENING.

JOHNNIE TO BREAKING NEWS

Directed by JOHNNIE TO

NOW SHOWING

glorietta

GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET! MARKET!

Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your Seats by calling 02-888-8888 or 02-888-8888 or visit www.ayalamalls.com for web reservations.

G1	1 HOUSE OF FURY	2 V FOR VENDETTA	3 HOSTEL	4 SHE'S THE MAN
G4	1 SHAGGY DOG	2 HOSTEL	3 V FOR VENDETTA	4 DATE MOVIE
GB1	1 16 BLOCKS	2 V FOR VENDETTA		
GB3	1 SHE'S THE MAN	2 V FOR VENDETTA		
ATC	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 SHE'S THE MAN		
ACC	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 HOSTEL	3 PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
M2	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 HOSTEL		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service hotlines: 0917 6095900

Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm

Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12pm

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Installment Madness March 15-31, 2006	Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Barangay Kamputhaw Day Care Center's Culminating Program March 16, 2006	Woman's Today Summer Picks Event March 16, 2006

GREENBELT

Ayala Greenbelt's Chocolate Festival February 13 to March 15, 2006

Onstage!

Reportary Philippines presents 7 NG UMAGA at REP's Globe Theater - March 24, 25, 26, 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

Come & view the 20th ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT

For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 28

Or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

RIENT

Get ready and pack your things for the coolest destinations this summer!

Buy 2 movie tickets at Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1, and Greenbelt 3 Cinemas to get 1 raffle coupon, fill up, and drop at drop boxes at the ticket booths.

Deadline of all raffle entries is on May 10, 2006.

Drawing of winner is on May 20, 2006.

Winners will be notified by registered mail and phone call.

AYALA MALLS CINEMAS Trippin' in 80 days

2mad about'emall!

Just Got Bigger and Better!

Shop in Ayala Malls using your BPI Express Credit Card for a chance to win a Nissan Patrol 4x4 in the Grand Draw and fabulous prizes in the Monthly Draws.

From November 25, 2005 to March 31, 2006

0% S.I.P.

PATROL

For inquiries, call 02-888-8888 or visit www.bpiexpresscredit.com

lenovo ThinkPad R51e

Mainstream performance and features

- Intel Pentium M 740 1.73 GHz
- 2GB/512MB PC2 4200 SDRAM
- 4.1" TFT Color Display
- 40GB 5400 rpm HDD
- ATI Radeon 2000
- Microsoft Windows XP Pro
- IBM TrackPoint
- SoundMAX

Accent Micro Technologies, Inc.
Suite 1404, 14/F, Asean Corporate Center
Jules Verger Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. # 626-3563 Fax # 626-3564

AMTI

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text as your feedback: Inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Laban, laban sa Petron Rev-X!

PETRON

REV-X

X-pert maintenance

OFW remittances surge 16.5% to \$917M

BSP notes workers' appetite for acquiring property

By Doris C. Dumlaog

REMITTANCES FROM OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS that had been coursed through banks surged by 16.5 percent in January to \$917 million from \$787 million a year ago on the back of increasing appetite to invest in local property assets.

"Information gathered from commercial banks indicates an increasing amount of remittances used for direct payments of investments in Philippine assets, such as real estate and condominiums," BSP Governor Amador Tetangco Jr. said in a press statement yesterday.

He said the continuing rise in remit-

stances, despite a slowdown in the deployment of new workers abroad, could also be attributed to the efficiency of remittance services and intensified marketing campaign by commercial banks to capture the OFW remittance market.

"Commercial banks stepped up their drive to service the banking needs of the

growing number of Filipinos working overseas, which include... faster means of remittance transfers and more remittance centers and tie-ups abroad," Tetangco said.

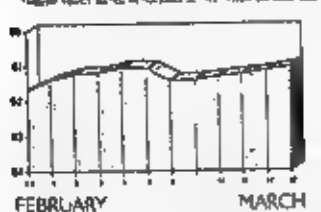
The major sources of remittances are still the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and Singapore.

OFW remittances coursed through banks hit a historic high of \$10.7 billion in 2005, up 25 percent from inflows of the previous year.

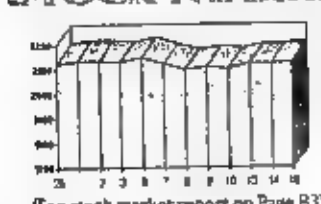
Citing preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Tetangco said that for the

OFW/B5

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B3)

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.05 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., March 15, 2006

SHARES

117.52 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., March 15, 2006
GOLD: \$350.60-\$351.16
per ounce Hong Kong, March 15, 2006

Shares close 0.33% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.33 PERCENT higher, supported by gains on Wall Street and around this region, dealers said.

They said SM Investments led the winners after reporting strong profits for calendar 2005.

The composite index was up 6.92 points to

SHARES/B5

Peso reaches 51.01:\$1 in intra-day trade, closes at 51.05

THE PESO YESTERDAY ALMOST touched 51:\$1 during the day's trading, beefed up by prospects of higher remittances from overseas Filipino workers, currency traders said.

The strong closing of the peso, which sailed alongside bullish Asian currency markets, and the robust build-up of the country's foreign exchange reserves,

has encouraged the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to announce the prepayment by this April of \$500 million worth of debts six months ahead of maturity.

International Exchange Bank treasurer Edmundo Bunya Jr. said the strengthening peso would likewise allow the BSP to hold off further increases in its overnight rates for the rest of

the year.

The local currency yesterday traded between an intra-day high of 51.01 and a low of 51.10 before firming up at 51.05, better than Tuesday's closing of 51.14 against the US dollar.

"The peso is firmer due to across-the-board US dollar weakness on soft US economic data and slack in dollar de-

mand," BSP Governor Amador Tetangco Jr. said.

The dollar yesterday fell across major currencies due to a disappointing unemployment data in the United States, which prompted analysts to scale back expectations on how much the US Federal Reserve would hike rates this year.

PESO/B5

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP jobless rate rose to 8.1% in Jan. /B2

P3.2-B bulk handling facility to open /B5



MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS

bago ang April 17 deadline.



Call BIR Hotline (02) 981-8888
or visit www.bir.gov.ph for assistance.

Ang Ating Kontribusyon Sa Solusyon



WITHDRAW ONCE A MONTH AND STILL EARN TIME DEPOSIT RATES*

Open an account for only P10,000 and receive the following:

- Chinatrust VISA Debit & ATM Card
- Checkbook
- Passbook
- Monthly Statement of Account

Chinatrust

Ultimate
Earner

Call 848-5519



Chinatrust

*P50,000.00 required minimum balance to earn interest. Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Statutory deposit insurance for each depositor is P250,000.00.

BUSINESS

B3

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

STOCKS

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
As of March 15, 2006					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8	25,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,138,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	59	59	863,900
China Banking Corp.	68.5	68.5	67.5	67.5	3,300
Citibank Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.4	6,200,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	67	69	67	69	451,900
International Exch. Bank	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	80,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	37	37	352,600
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	12,500
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	600
Rural Bank of Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	38	38	38	38	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	1,700
First Abacus Financial	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	180,000
Manila Financial Corp.	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1,100
San Life Financial Inc.	2180	2180	2180	2180	800
Vantage Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	2,720,000
INDUSTRIAL					
Electricity, Energy, Power & Water					
First Gen Corp.	43	43	42	42	24,600
First Phil. Mfgs. Corp.	40	40.5	39.5	40	582,200
Monte Electric Co. A	13	13.25	13	13	25,300
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	20	19.5	19.75	703,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,319,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.6	4.45	4.55	3,347,000
Sabon Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	210
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	150
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	32,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	18.5	18.5	18	18	46
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36.5	35.5	36.5	583
Manila House Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.65	3.65	50
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	167,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	61	60.5	61	23,100
San Miguel Corp. B	79	79	77.5	78	743,900
Universal Robina Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	384,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	1,430,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	3,653,000
Southern Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	60,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.4	4.3	4.4	47,000
CHEMICALS					
Malubogay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	150,000
PIPC Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	800,000
Stential Manufacturing	0.41	0.42	0.37	0.38	3,610,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con. Res. & Hdg. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	24,000,000
Abacus Con. Res. & Hdg. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	214,400
Abacus Equity Ventures	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	17,000
Aio Hai Holdings Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	6,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
APG Group Inc.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	10,000
Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	25,000
Bacanan Cons. Indus Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	20,000
Bengas Holdings Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.24	2.34	7,500
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	415,000
Firstinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,344,000
Global Business Mktgs Inc.	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.3	1,131,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	3,000
Keppel Holdings B	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.3	150,000
Multi-link Int. Corp.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,550,000
Prime Group Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	41,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.125	0.135	0.125	0.135	1,330,000
Sinophili Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,194,670
SM Investments Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	600,920
United Res. & Holdings Co.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	3,130,000
Wellek Industries Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	5,722,600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	0.98	1.02	0.95	1	6,620,000
Bella Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,390,000
Crown Equities Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	567,000
Calu Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	41,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	3,380,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	46,750,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	50,000
Farmfront Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.22	2,937,000
Flowers Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Gatesco Land Inc.	2.85	3.05	2.85	2.95	736,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	1,520,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	6,929,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	4,270,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	4,790,000
NAC Allied Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	34,800
Robinsons Land Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	13,000,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	34,800
SM Development Corp.	1.77	1.77	1.77	1.77	60,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	3,179,000
Unilindo Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	1,380,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	620,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	825	860	825	850	30,990
Globe Telecom Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	774,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	1825	1840	1820	1825	52,550
Phil. Long Dist. Tel. Co.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	25,290,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.22	0.205	0.22	32,000,000
Imperial Res.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	100,000
Ironics Inc.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	5,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	72,000
Music Semiconductor Corp.					

Philippine Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	64,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	403,600
Int'l Container Terminals	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12,000
Kapitel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	
Logan Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Accela Phils. Hotel Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	9,986,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	
Manila Jockey Club	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	500,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	
Far Eastern University	605	605	605	605	
People Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	
DIVERSIFIED					
Phelps Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	290,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	301,000
Alles Mining & Industrial	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	846
Alles Cons. Min. & Dev't	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	13
Benquet Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	4,570,000
Lapanta Cons. Min. Co. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	5,740
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	6,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. C	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	12,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.24	0.24	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	9,000,000
The Philodini Corp. A	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
PLDT (10% Prt.) Series U	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	27,000
Cashboards Inc.	6	6	6	6	2,000

CURRENCIES	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
March 15, 2006				
United States	Dollar	0.832016	1.000000	61.930
Japan	Yen	0.007078	0.008508	0.4355
United Kingdom	Pound	1.453198	1.746800	89.4137
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107246	0.128899	6.5837
Switzerland	Franc	0.638665	0.787636	39.2976
Canada	Dollar	0.71992	0.864902	44.2769
Singapore	Dollar	0.512857	0.618523	31.567
Australia	Dollar	0.512542	0.736214	37.6890
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.22871	0.266667	13.6445
Brunei	Dollar	0.511380	0.614628	31.4647
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.00009	0.0056
Baham	Dollar	0.021257	0.025449	1.3079
Dirham	Dirham	0.228553	0.272794	13.9395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.201800	61.5289
Argentina	Peso	0.270574	0.325203	16.6181
Brazil	Real	0.392738	0.472032	24.1647
Denmark	Krone	0.134002	0.161057	8.2450
France	Franc	0.018752	0.022538	1.1538
Korea	Won	0.224052	0.269288	13.7057
Mexico	New Peso	0.077889	0.093747	4.7692
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539556	0.637796	32.6507
South Africa	Rand	0.133431	0.160431	8.229
Taiwan	Dollar	0.020852	0.0251024	0.0524
TH Dollar		0.025084	0.030882	1.5809

Where you find the best.

JOB Market

www.jobmarket.com

Put your business online!!

Call now and avail of the most reliable and affordable WEB HOSTING services!!

WebSite Plan

- 50mb webspace
- 600mb bandwidth
- UNLIMITED email accounts
- UNLIMITED MySQL databases
- UNLIMITED Postgres databases
- UNLIMITED FTP accounts
- With ANTI SPAM
- Full Tech Support

for only 2,400.00 per year

GoDaddy.com

email us: sales@godaddy.com Tel. No. (832) 306-0478

Upgrade Your Future

Get Certified

Become a Certified Management Accountant

Join the 7th CMA Program of Australia

CMA

Certified Management Accountant

The CMA Program is a globally recognized program of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants in Australia.

The program develops skills of analysis and evaluation in the area of strategic cost and management practices while learning the organizational decision-making and communication skills essential for today's successful management professionals

May 06 - July 22, 2006

Holiday Inn Galleria Manila

Tel. No.: 687-9856 / 634-6476-77

Email: info@cmaphippines.com

Visit: www.cmaphippines.com

SERVICE ALERT SYSTEM

Multipurpose Cordless Calling System

Restaurant

Hospital

Sports Complex

To Provide Better Service for:

Restaurant, Coffee Shop, Food Court, Hospital, Pharmacy, Bank, Factory, Public Office, Private Place, Self Service Place.

Exclusive Distributor:

Concept Specialist Inc.

Unit 109 A Criselda Bldg. Scout de Guia St., QC

Tel Nos. 920-5763, 925-6070; 925-5643 (f) 928-6974

Robinsons Bank Green Time Deposit

gives you reason to grin!

	\$100,000 up	\$50,000 up	\$10,000 up	\$1,000 up
2 Years	4.5000%	4.0000%	3.7500%	3.5000%
360 Days	3.7500%	3.6250%	3.5000%	3.4375%
180 Days	3.5250%	3.5000%	3.4375%	3.3750%
90 Days	3.5000%			

The Officers and Staff of



Condole with the family of

VICENTE LOPEZ CHUA

Senior Adviser – Private Bank, Asia Pacific
Former Senior Country Executive
American Express Bank, Manila Offshore Branch

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 13, 2006.

Vic served American Express Bank for over 40 years. Admired and loved by both clients and colleagues alike, he will always be remembered as a man of the highest professional and ethical standards. He will be greatly missed by all of us who had the privilege of working with him.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Capilla dela Virgen. Interment with be on Saturday, March 18, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 10:00 a.m. mass.

We extend our condolences to his family and loved ones and join the pious readers in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO

Let our Funeral Home & Crematory ease your burden

- Elegant & Spacious Chapels •US-made Caskets •Catered Meals
- Flowers by Holland Blooms •Imported Registry Books & Thank You Cards •Personalized Guest Information Cards
- Horse-drawn Hearse or Cadillac De Ville Hearse •Obituary Ads

845-2440 • 845-2334 to 38

CARD OF THANKS

The Family and relatives of the late

MARIA EVANGELISTA CUAWho peacefully joined her Creator
on March 08, 2006

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to all those who in one way or another condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.**WENCESLAO K. MARTINEZ**

of Antigua, Batangas
and Merville Park, Parañaque City
died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on March 12, 2006 at the age of 80.
His remains lie in state at Merville Parish Mortuary
(Our Lady of Beautiful Love) in Parañaque City.
Interment will be on March 18, 2006 at the Manila
Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the
celebration of the Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m.
(Martinez Family - 0915-488374; 822266)

*"I am the way, the truth and
the life. No one comes to the
Father except through Me."*

John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS
**CESAR SEVILLA
VIRAY**

who passed away on the
eternal life
on March 16, 2002

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be
offered at the following churches:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| The Parish of the Lord Divine Mercy | 6:00 p.m. |
| Sikatan Village, Quezon City | |
| Christ the King of the Universe Parish | 7:00 p.m. |
| Baguay, Quezon City | |
| Parish of the Holy Sacrifice | 6:00 p.m. |
| LIP-Diliman, Quezon City | |
| Santissima Rosario Parish Church | 5:15 p.m. |
| UST, Manila | |
| Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City | 6:00 p.m. |
| Lord of Resurrection Parish Church | 6:00 a.m. |
| SFDM, Quezon City | |

Tomas Viray & family request the pious renders
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

**GARMA CLINIC
VD'S SPECIALIST**
GONORRHEA, WARTS
SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES

ADULT BIRTHING/CLINIC

Painless, Bloodless

SKIN DISEASES

ALLERGIES RE-CURRENT

UTI, ALMORANAS,

ERECTION PROBLEMS

INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE

MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL

RE-LID/PAP SMEAR

COMPLETE LABORATORY

Gamma Bldg. No. 8 Purdue St.

Cubao, Q.C.

OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.

TEL. NOS. 4392704

4373896/9139474

**CALL
POEA**

24-HOUR

HOTLINES

722-1144

OR

722-1155

**PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**Energy Complex, Mount Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Tel. No. 893-1328, Local 5282 / 5288 / 5281

PNOC**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID / BID**

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Sizes of CS SAWHAW and Seamless Pipes	Approved Budget PHP 6,145,000.00
under POU 50817	
Two Hundred Eighty (200) Cubic Meters Liquid Gasoline Soda	PHP 4,850,000.00
under GT 517414	
Steel Fence Materials	PHP 2,000,000.00
under GO 516113	

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the above address based on the following schedule:

PR No.	Date of Issue	Cost per Document	Contact Person
FOJ 50817	March 15, 2006	PHP 400.00	Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado loc. 5282
GT 517414	March 15, 2006	PHP 400.00	Mr. Anthony E. Chino loc. 5288
GO 516113	February 22, 2006	PHP 400.00	Mr. Edgar Allen T. Sadamas loc. 5281

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall also be held on March 23, 2006 for FOJ 50817 and GT 517414, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box (no later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department West Clock Tower) of April 8, 2006 for FOJ 50817 and GT 517414 and March 23, 2006 for GO 516113. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

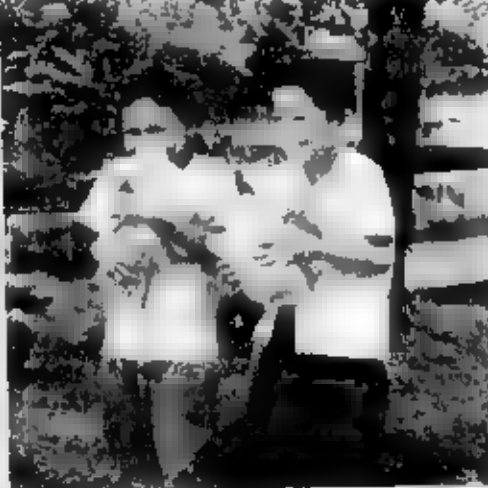
PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 16 & 23, 2006)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
JOB
Market

Send to every Sunday in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit us online at www.jobmarket.ph

**'FOOD FOR SCHOOL' PROGRAM**

ADDRESSES CHILDREN'S HEALTH NEEDS
HAPPINESS IS ETCHED IN THE FACES OF THESE two elementary school children from Balbagon Elementary School in Camiguin after getting their rice allocation under the "Food for School", a joint program being implemented by the National Food Authority and the Department of Education. Under the program, identified pupil-beneficiaries are provided with a kilogram of rice each day they attend school for a period of three months. Aside from serving as incentive to attend their class, the program which is being implemented nationwide expects to mitigate hunger and prevent the decline of proper nutrition among school children. Studies show that short-term hunger syndrome and undernutrition among school children can stunt their mental and physical development and affect their academic performance.

CLASSIFIEDS

More
Classified Ads

on pages A24, B2, B5 & B6

Gov't urged to speed up sale of Napocor assets

A CONSUMER GROUP HAS URGED THE Energy Regulatory Commission to hasten the privatization of the generation assets of National Power Corp. (Napocor) by approving the proposed debt settlement agreement between the state-owned firm and power distribution giant Manila Electric Co.

The Northern Luzon-based Timpuyog Mannaon Amianan said the ERC nod for the compromise deal will remove a major stumbling block to the planned sale of Napocor assets to the private sector.

Consumer activist and Timpuyog spokesperson Melany Victoria said the deal should help improve the financial condition of Napocor, which is crucial to its privatization program.

Napocor and Meralco entered into a debt settlement compromise in 2004 which provides for a five-year payment of some P14 billion by the Lopez-owned firm. The amount represents the alleged disparity between the contracted level of power supply and the actual off-take by Meralco from Napocor from 2001 to 2003.

The deal also provides for increased power off-take from Meralco's independent power producers which would allow them to optimize dispatch levels.

P3.2-B bulk handling facility to open

RP seen as grains transshipment hub in Asia

THE COUNTRY HOPES TO BECOME a transshipment hub for grains in Asia with the opening of its biggest bulk handling facility in May or June, the terminal owner and government officials said on Tuesday.

Nation Granary Inc. is testing the P3.2-billion facility, which has a capacity of 225,000 tons, in Sariaya, Quezon.

"The objective of the project is to support the government's food security program and ultimately become the transshipment hub of grains in Asia," said an executive of Nation Granary, who asked not to be identified.

The same executive said the port had a depth of 18 meters which meant that, unlike facilities in other countries in the region, it could handle vessels with a capacity of 80,000 to 150,000 tons.

The facility, which occupies a 10-hectare site, has eight silos with a handling capacity of 15,000 tons each and six others with a capacity of 5,000 tons each. It also has a

warehouse with a capacity of 75,000 tons.

The silos have computerized temperature controls.

"The Philippines needs a world-class grains terminal especially if the discharging rate is as fast as 16,000 tons per day," Ric Pinca, vice president of the Philippine Association of Feedmillers Inc., said.

The Nation Granary port aims for an average discharge rate of 16,000 tons per day, compared with the 10,000 tons unloaded each day at the grain terminal owned by Asian Terminals Inc. in Bataan.

A third terminal in Subic has a discharge rate of about 8,000 tons per day, Pinca said.

The country is one of the biggest importers of rice, its main food staple, and other grains and feedstuffs in Asia.

It bought 1.8 million tons of rice last year. It also imports nearly 3 million tons of both milling and feed wheat, 1.5 million tons of soybean, 400,000 tons of soybeans and some-

times corn yearly.

Grain traders in Manila said Nation Granary had imported 33,000 tons of Chinese corn, 55,000 tons of Argentine wheat and 30,000 tons of Argentine soybean to test the facility.

Officials at Philippine Export Import Credit Agency or PhilExim, a government firm which guaranteed the loans for the project, said the facility would help local farmers cut their post-harvest losses due to a lack of storage space.

"We lack storage and handling facilities now, so farmers are at the mercy of traders," Maria Clarissa Tuazon, senior vice president at PhilExim, said.

"The project would also create a multiplier effect for the economy," Tuazon said, adding the project had the support of the local community.

Of the P3.2-billion funding for the project, P1.4 billion was equity from Nation Granary and the rest were loans from Dutch bank ABN Amro NV and Philippine banks United Coconut Planters Bank and Philippine Bank of Communications. **Reuters**

Megaworld to raise P5B via shares offering

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY DEVELOPER MEGAWORLD Corp. is expected to raise P5 billion through the sale of new shares to international and local investors in late April, sources said.

Megaworld plans to offer 3.9 billion shares at 10 percent off its share price next month.

The total offer will be made up of 3.5 billion new shares and 400 million secondary shares. Megaworld closed at P1.46 a share yesterday.

In a prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), US-based real estate investor Colony-CB Richard Ellis, one of Megaworld's foreign shareholders, said it was considering selling its 6.7-percent stake or 723 million shares in the company.

The underwriter for the domestic offer is BDO Capital and Investment Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Megaworld plans to use a portion of the proceeds for the development and construction of McKinley Hill Cyberpark and McKinley Hill Town Center in Fort Bonifacio and for Phase I and II of its Eastwood offices and Eastwood Mall in Libis, Quezon City.

Megaworld said its net tangible book value as of Dec. 31, 2005 was P1.58 a share. The book value after the offering was estimated at P1.54 a share.

Peso reaches 51.01:\$1 in intra-day trade ...

Taking advantage of the surge in the BSP foreign exchange reserves, which had exceeded the \$20-billion mark,

Tetangco also announced the planned prepayment in April of a \$395-million term loan, and \$104.5 million in floating rate

notes, maturing in October this year.

"The prepayment will enable the BSP to save on interest

From page B1

expense," Tetangco said. As of end February, the country's GIR hit a record high of \$20.58 billion. **Doris C. Dumlao**

From page B1

OFW remittances surge 16.5% to \$917M

month of January, new offshore jobs created for Filipinos dipped by 7.2 percent to 98,971 over the same month last year.

The number of land-based workers were reduced by 9.8 percent to 77,931, although seagoing workers grew by 3.9 per-

cent to 21,040 from a year ago.

OFW remittances are now regarded as a significant economic indicator in the Philippines. The inflows are seen to lift households out of poverty by boosting funds for education, health and entrepreneur-

ship. The foreign inflows have also helped strengthen the peso against the US dollar.

There are about eight million OFWs deployed abroad or about 10 percent of the population, of which three million are permanent residents.

Relative to the size of the country's economy, the amount of OFW inflows in the Philippines is now equivalent to about 10.5 percent of the gross domestic product, and about 20 percent of the country's export of goods and services.

Shares ...

From page B1

2,127.91 after moving between 2,116.79 and 2,134.21. The broader all-shares index gained 7.03 points to 1,035.67.

Volume stood at 462.6 million shares worth P1.2 billion (\$19.98 million). Gainers edged out losers 46 to 32, while 57 stocks were unchanged.

The peso traded at 51.06 to the dollar at noon Wednesday. **AFP**



Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN Ombudsman Building, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE ORDER NO. 05-303 Series of 2005

TO ALL CONCERNED
SUBJECT CUSTOMER CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN INVOLVED IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

DATE OCTOBER 20, 2005

I. PURPOSE

Procurement involves disbursement of public funds or funds placed under its official custody and the basic rule is that such funds should be properly spent by the Office. If the procurement is well managed by those involved in the procurement process, then, corruption and wastage of resources are avoided.

The Office of the Ombudsman is committed to the principle of good governance and it has exerted efforts to adhere to the principle of transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, competitiveness and economy in the conduct of its procurement of goods (all items, supplies, materials, equipment and general services) and Consulting Services and in contracting Infrastructure Projects. To ensure the integrity of the procurement process in the Office, it is essential to establish a customized Code of Conduct for all its officials and employees involved in the procurement process.

II. SCOPE

This customized Code of Conduct shall apply to all officials and employees of the Office who are involved in the procurement process, namely: the BAC, the TWG, the TIG, the BAC Secretariat, the PMS / GSD, the FMS, the Accounting Division, the Planning and Budget Division, the Cashiering Unit, the Officials who are signatories to the Contracts / Agreements and the respective end-users.

III. POLICIES AND RULES

Section 1. Definition of Terms

As used herein the term

- 1.a Procurement - refers to the acquisition of Goods and Consulting Services, and the contracting for Infrastructure Projects by the Office of the Ombudsman
- 1.b Goods - refer to all items, supplies, materials, equipment and general support services
- 1.c Consulting Services - refer to services for Infrastructure Projects and other types of projects or activities of Government requiring adequate external technical and professional expertise including advisory and review services, pre-investment or feasibility studies, design construction supervision, management and related services, and other technical services or special studies
- 1.d Infrastructure Projects / Civil Works - include the construction improvement, rehabilitation, demolition, repair restoration or maintenance of roads and bridges, railways, airports, seaports, communication facilities, civil works components of information technology projects, irrigation, flood control and drainage, water supply, sanitation, sewerage & solid waste management systems, shore protection, energy / power and electrification facilities, national buildings, school buildings, hospital buildings and other related construction projects of the government.
- 1.e Code - refers to the customized Code of Conduct for the Office of the Ombudsman BAC and the other Committees / Offices involved in procurement
- 1.f Office - refers to the Office of the Ombudsman
- 1.g Gift - refers to a thing disposed of gratuitously in favor of another and shall include a simulated sale or a disposition onerous to the giver
- 1.h Benefit - refers to a right, privilege, entertainment, exemption or any other similar act of liberality in favor of another
- 1.i BAC Secretariat - refers to the members of the support staff to the Bids and Awards Committee and the custodians of the procurement records
- 1.j Suppliers / Contractors - refer to persons or group of persons, or entities that supply Goods and Consulting Services and contract for Infrastructure Projects
- 1.k BAC - Bids and Awards Committee
- 1.l TWG - Technical Working Group
- 1.m TIG - Technical Inspection Group
- 1.n PMS - Property Management Section
- 1.o GSD - General Services Division
- 1.p IRR-A - Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A
- 1.q COA - Commission on Audit
- 1.r NGO - Non-Government Organization
- 1.s PS-DBM - Procurement Service Department of Budget and Management
- 1.t FMS - Finance and Management Services
- 1.u End-user - refers to the officers and employees of the unit for which the Goods, Consulting Services and Infrastructure Projects are intended.
- 1.v Signatories to the Contract - refer to the Officials who execute and sign the contract / agreement for the Office

Section 2. General Provisions

The Chairman and Members of the Ombudsman BAC, TWG, TIG, the BAC Secretariat, and the officials and employees of the PMS / GSD, FMS, Planning and Budget Division, Accounting Division, Cashiering Unit, and the signatories to the contract, who in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as such, shall:

- 2.a Adhere strictly to the principles and provisions of laws and rules promoting transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, professionalism, competitiveness and economy in procurement.

2.b Strictly avoid all situations that may give rise or lead to give rise to situations of conflict of interests or suspicions of conflict of interests. Should a conflict of interest arise, pursuant to Rule V of OMB Office Order Number 05-13 dated January 24, 2005, or the Norms of Behavior for Officials and Employees of the Office of the Ombudsman, it shall be the duty of the concerned official or employee to immediately disclose the same to his/her immediate supervisor and terminate the same, by way of a written declaration hereof. The written declaration on conflict of interest may be done periodically or for every contracting process.

2.c Absolutely refrain from soliciting and/or accepting, directly or indirectly, gifts and benefits for themselves or for others, from the suppliers, contractors and/or consultants regardless of whether or not said suppliers, contractors and/or consultants are transacting business with the Office of the Ombudsman.

2.d Absolutely refrain from accepting invitations or offers from suppliers, contractors and/or consultants or their representatives for meetings and conferences outside the Office.

2.e Strictly refrain from having personal contacts or interactions with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants. The latter are not allowed to enter the office premises unless necessary to transact official business in which case their stay shall not be longer than what is required to finish their official transaction.

2.f Strictly adhere to the mandated time frames as provided for in Republic Act No. 9164 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

2.g Refrain from unduly influencing or exerting undue pressure upon any member of the BAC or any officer or employee of the procuring entity or office to take a particular action which favors, or tends to favor a particular supplier, contractor and/or consultant.

2.h Strictly refrain from inviting as guests and getting as ninongs, ninangas, sponsors or donors the suppliers / contractors and/or consultants transacting business with the Office to avoid closeamity and familiarity as well as the perception that undue benefit and/or advantage is being given to the member concerned of the BAC TWG, TIG PMS/GSD, BAC Secretariat, FMS Planning and Budget Division, Accounting Division, Cashiering Unit, as well as signatories to the contract.

2.i Strictly observe the norms of behavior enunciated under Office Order Number 05-13 dated January 24, 2005, particularly on the provisions relating to Conflict of Interests and Confidentiality of proceedings

Section 3. Specific Provisions

3.1 For the Bids and Awards Committee -

The BAC, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.1.a Only have official contacts with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the pre-bid conference and opening of bids.

3.1.b Refrain from entertaining procurement transactions/queries from suppliers, contractors and/or consultants except through the BAC Secretariat

3.1.c Attend the regular meetings of the BAC as scheduled.

3.2 For the BAC Secretariat -

The BAC Secretariat, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.2.a Only have official contacts with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the bidding process

3.2.b Prepare the necessary reports and proper recording of all procurement transactions to ensure accountability and transparency

3.2.c Be under the direct control, supervision and monitoring of the BAC

3.3 For the Technical Working Group -

The TWG, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.3.a Only have official contacts with the concerned suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the pre-bid conference, the opening of bids, the evaluation and post qualification process, and before submission of the Evaluation Report.

3.3.b Conduct ocular inspections of the suppliers, contractors and/or consultants business offices, premises, warehouses, outlets, stores and factories unannounced. The date of ocular inspection and the team to conduct the ocular inspection shall be specified by and with authority from the BAC for monitoring purposes. In no case shall the TWG use other resources than that of the Office in the conduct of ocular inspection

3.3.c Prepare a brief report for the BAC after every ocular inspection indicating the itinerary of travel and the expenses incurred. Claims for refund of expenses shall be properly documented and in compliance with the existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations

3.3.d Prepare the Technical Evaluation Report and submit the same to the BAC within the prescribed period pursuant to RA No. 9164 and its IRR A

3.4 For the Technical Inspection Group -

The TIG, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.4.a Only have official contact with the suppliers or contractors whenever necessary during the delivery and acceptance of the delivered goods or the evaluation of the performance of the general support services rendered to the Office.

3.4.b Conduct inspections of deliveries of goods and evaluation of general support services rendered to the Office by the suppliers or contractors.

• In the presence of the end-user, property custodian, and PMS Officer and

• By rotation on a per delivery and per evaluation bases.

3.4.c Strictly comply with the Office specification/s in the conduct of inspection of goods and the evaluation of the general support services rendered to the Office by the suppliers or contractors

3.5 For the Property Management Section / General Services Division -

The PMS/GSD, in the performance of their duties and responsibilities shall

3.5.a Only have official contact with the concerned suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary prior to the preparation of the Purchase Orders (PO), the Job Orders (JO) or Contracts/Agreements, during the delivery of goods or general support services, and during the preparation of documents for payments. The PMS/GSD shall, in case of mailed canvases, contact the suppliers or contractors whenever necessary if there is a need to get information on certain goods or general support services and in the conduct of material prob.

3.5.b Prepare reports and keep the records on procurement transactions pursuant to COA rules for submission to the Overall Deputy Ombudsman.

3.6 For the Finance and Management Services, the Planning and Budget Division, the Accounting Division and the Cashiering Unit -

The FMS, the Planning and Budget Division, the Accounting Division and the Cashiering Unit, in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as such, shall

3.6.a Expediently process payments of claims arising from procurement provided that the Notice of Cash Allocation has been released and all supporting documents are submitted by the concerned suppliers and the PMS/GSD

3.6.b Accurately record all procurement transactions in the respective general and subsidiary ledgers.

3.6.c Periodically coordinate with PMS/GSD to reconcile any discrepancy in the inventory of goods

3.6.d Properly coordinate with the concerned offices/bureaus to obtain the documents or information needed for the processing of claims for payments arising from procurement.

3.7 For the Signatories to the Contracts/Agreements -

The Officials of the Office who are authorized signatories to the contracts or agreements shall act within the prescribed period as provided for under Republic Act No. 9164 and its IRR-A

3.8 For the End-Users -

The end-user shall have the following duties and responsibilities.

3.8.a Maintain and update records of goods received, consumed and/or disposed.

3.8.b Submit to the Overall Deputy Ombudsman or the BAC a report involving any discrepancy, irregularity, or defect in the procurement of goods involving their respective unit/bureau/office using, among others, the End-User Feedback form.

Section 4. Accountability

All officials and employees involved in procurement shall strictly comply with the office requirements on authorized signatories and approving authorities. To strengthen accountability a regular review of contracts as well as audits of procurement decisions shall be made by an Independent Review Committee to be created for the purpose

Section 5. Transparency

For transparency officials and employees having custody of documents pertaining to procurement, which are not classified as confidential, shall make available for inspection the requested document upon written request by the interested party indicating the legal purpose, subject to prior approval of the Bids and Awards Committee. For this purpose, contract registers shall be maintained by the BAC which shall include among other things, data on the notices to bidders, product/service description, start and finish of contract, names and addresses of the participating bidders/parties involved, contract value, date of last audit conducted by the Independent Review Committee and audit result, the names of all personnel involved in the procurement process.

IV. PENALTIES / SANCTIONS

Any violation of these Rules shall be a ground for disciplinary action, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate criminal charges against the erring official and/or employee

V. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this Code is held unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and binding

VI. EFFECTIVITY

This Office Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and upon the filing with the University of the Philippines Law Center of three (3) certified copies thereof, including its publication in a newspaper of general circulation for three (3) consecutive weeks

MARGARITO P. GERVACIO, JR.
The Overall Deputy Ombudsman

BUSINESS

Generation rate hike OKd

Coverage limited to Napocor's Spug areas in Luzon

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has approved an in-

crease in the subsidized/approved generation rates (SAGRs) charged by National Power Corp.'s Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG) in certain Luzon island groups.

In a 42-page order dated Dec. 16, 2005, the regulatory body approved an increase of P1.93 per kWh in the SAGR for Catanduanes, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon and Tablas, which were included in the 14 "first wave" Napocor's Spug areas.

Masbate was the only Luzon small island group within the 14 "first wave" Spug areas to be granted an SAGR increase of only P1.41 per kWh.

No rate hikes were granted to Visayas and Mindanao, the order stated.

The rate hike approval pushed the SAGR in the seven Luzon island groups to P5.64 per kWh. Masbate's SAGR was jacked up to P5.41.

In the Visayas areas, the SAGR for Bantayan, Camotes and Siqui-

lor remained at P6.26 per kWh, while the rate in Mindanao—Basilan, Tawi-tawi and Sulu—will still be P5.12 per kWh.

In the same order, the ERC placed the required missionary electrification subsidy for the "first wave" areas at P2.57 per kWh in 2005.

The approved subsidies were estimated at nearly 1.4 billion in the first 14 Spug areas alone.

The missionary electrification subsidy requirement was biggest in Palawan at P297 million using a 2005 generation forecast of 126,091 megawatt-hours (MWh).

The 14 "first wave" areas represented the initial areas that were declared open for private sector participation.

The remaining Spug areas would eventually be opened to private sector participation later.

Napocor-Spug is set to file a separate application for the universal charge-missionary electrification requirement of the Spug areas not included in the "first wave," the ERC order said.



THE BORACAY sunset

Tourism campaign focuses on Boracay

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A PRIVATE SECTOR-LED CAMPAIGN aimed at bringing in five million foreign visitors a year is focusing on making Boracay more tourist-friendly through inducing investments of up to P10 billion.

Samie Lim, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's tourism committee, said the World Bank's International Finance Corp. had prepared a list of business opportunities costing between P10 million and P10 billion for this resort island.

Lim said the PCCI was coordinating projects to put up transport services and additional rooms in Bo-

racay through its Biztour 5 campaign.

He said there were plans to set up a Hong Kong-style ferry service between Caticlan and Boracay, while Tiger Airways and other budget airlines were interested in expanding services to secondary airports like the one in Caticlan.

Lim said big hotel operators like the Shangri-La group were in various stages of putting up accommodation facilities with 300 to 500 rooms each in Boracay.

Lim said the focus on Boracay was aimed at making the island the country's biggest tourist magnet, with arrivals hoped to be increased to about 3 million a year from the current 140,000.

Take advantage of PSBank's HIGH \$ RATES

	\$1,000 to 9,999	\$10,000 to 49,999	\$50,000 to 99,999	\$100,000 and up
1 month	3.0000%	3.1250%	3.2500%	3.2500%
2 months	3.1250%	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.3750%
3 months	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.4375%
6 months	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%
12 months	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%

*Interest rates are subject to change without prior notice.

†Rates are on an annual basis and subject to 2.5% withholding tax.



Text PSBANK JSTD <your name> <your landline no.> <your email address> then send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. All bank deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000.

Confirm Your Future Immigration Options with a Canadian Professional

The Opportunity

If you are financially successful in your business and/or your career and you've been wondering lately what the options are in terms of the investment or economic contribution required to obtain Permanent Resident visas for the entire family and realistic time frames... NOW is your opportunity.

Expectations

Expect to sit in a comfortable chair for 30-45 minutes. Expect to get the facts of business immigration presented in a clear and concise briefing. Expect to have all your questions answered truthfully... without hesitation. Expect confidentiality.

Minimum Requirements

There are two minimum requirements for the business immigration plans we offer.

You have to show that you have been successful in business ownership and/or in senior management, and you are required to have a minimum net worth of CAD\$ 300,000 (or 13.5 million pesos plus). Your net worth can include family property. Once you can satisfy these requirements, the opportunities present themselves.

The Players

We have two Canadians and two Canadian Permanent Residents on staff full-time. Not only do we know the rules and regulations, but we really know Canada... it is our home. Leading the briefing this week is our President and Senior Consultant, Dale Thompson. Likely the friendliest and most knowledgeable immigration consultant you'll ever meet.

The Bonus

Fresh brewed coffee Canadian style and donuts (Donuts were originally invented by a Canadian).

Date, Times and Venue

This coming Saturday, March 18th; Morning Session begins at 10:30 a.m., Afternoon Session begins at 1:30 p.m. Both will take place at Suite 1206 12th Floor MCS Tower, Makati Cinema Square, Don Chino Rocas Avenue, Makati City.

Interested parties must be pre-qualified. Call 811-1217, 811-1619 or 889-0615, then dial 115 for Lew Rogers, 108 for Ms. Thumny, or 109 for Ms. Kaye. Or text your name and contact info to (0918) 572-3070.



Special Announcement

We are elated to announce that our senior consultant, Mr. Dale Thompson, has recently completed and passed the full membership exam as required by the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants. He is currently the only licensed Immigration Consultant living in the Philippines authorized by the Federal Government of Canada.

Being represented by a Licensed Immigration Consultant ensures confidentiality, and the assurance that your application is completed to the highest standards in compliance with all the rules and regulations of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Canadian Professional Immigration Services, Inc.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Northern Mindanao
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 858-7123, 233-23-08, 350-4325, 726478

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Center for Health Development - Northern Mindanao, Cagayan de Oro City, is inviting contractors and security services operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for security services for calendar year 2006 with Approved Budget Cost of P876,000.00 sourced out of the GOP appropriations for this Office.

Timeline of bidding process are as follows:

Bidding Process	Schedule
Registration of interested contractors	Starts March 9, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 20, 2006 2:00 PM DOH-CHD Conference Room
Period of contractors eligibility check	March 10-24, 2006
Opening of Bids	March 27, 2006 2:00 PM DOH-CHD Conference Room

Bid forms will be made available to suppliers/contractors who passed the eligibility check at a non-refundable cost of P500.00.

The Director IV of the DOH-CHD Northern Mindanao, Cagayan de Oro City, reserves the right to waive any defect or informality in the offers of bids, and rejects any or all bid proposals that may be deemed disadvantageous to the government.

For further information, please inquire from the Bids and Awards Committee, or its Secretariat, or call telephone no. 858-7123, 233-2308, 350-4325, or visit our website at www.chd10.doh.gov.ph or email us at chd_cdo@yahoo.com.

(Sgd.) JULITO C. SABORNIDO, JR., MD, MPH
Director IV

(PCI March 9 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Field Office VI, M.H. del Pilar St., Molo, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 336-5425 Fax No. (033) 336-54-28
Email: fo6@dsawd.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

- The Department of Social Welfare and Development through GOP-PDAF-2006-06-10 intends to apply the sum of Eight Million Pesos (8,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS IN THE 4th DISTRICT OF ILOILO. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development, through its Bids and Awards Committee now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Various School Supplies and Materials for Public Elementary and High School pupils. Delivery of the GOODS is required by May 15-26, 2006 during office hours at DSWD Field Office VI, M.H. del Pilar St., Molo, Iloilo City. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or ownership of a country belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office VI and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

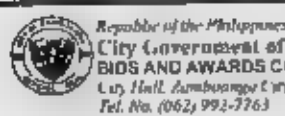
BAC Secretariat, Supply Unit
DSWD Field Office VI, M.H. del Pilar St., Molo, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 336-5425, (033) 336-5426

- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (P2,500.00). The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office VI will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 23, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the DSWD Conference/Training Center, M.H. del Pilar St., Molo, Iloilo City.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before April 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of:
 - Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of P8,000,000.00 or P80,000.00)
 - Bank Guarantee (1% of P8,000,000.00 or P80,000.00)
 - Surety Bond (2.5% of P8,000,000.00 or P200,000.00)
 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be on April 4, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSWD Conference/Training Center, M.H. del Pilar St., Molo, Iloilo City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

DSWD Conference/Training Center
M.H. del Pilar St., Molo, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 336-5425, (033) 336-5426

(Sgd.) JOEL P. GARCIA
CIC - Assistant Regional Director & Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PCI March 16 & 23, 2006)



Solicitation No. Goods 06-0301-024

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Drugs and Medicines

(Name of Project)
Amoxicillin 500 mg, Chlorimazole Vaginal Tabs, etc.

(Brief Description of GOODS)

- The City Government of Zamboanga, through the General Fund 2006 intend to apply the sum of THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY PESOS (P3,540,760.00) ONLY being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Drugs and Medicines (PR No. 100-06-02-0222) Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
- The City Government of Zamboanga now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Amoxicillin 500 mg, Chlorimazole vaginal tabs, etc. Delivery of the GOODS is required for Ten (10) working days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or ownership of a country belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from City Government of Zamboanga-Procurement, Acquisition & Award Division and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from March 9 to 22, 2006.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,200.00. The method of payment will be Cash payable to the City Treasurer. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The City Government of Zamboanga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 09, 2006, 10:00 AM at the City Engineers Conference Room.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, March 22, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Merchant's Check payable to the City Treasurer, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and in the amount of P35,407.60 or Bank Guarantee in the amount of P53,111.40 or Surety Bond in the amount of P85,519.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be on March 22, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the City Engineers Conference Room, City Hall, Z.C. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
- To be delivered in the Office of the City General Services Intended for the Office of the City Health.
- The City Government of Zamboanga reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the allocated Bidder or Bidders.

Procurement, Acquisition & Awards Division
Milagro W.S. Saeveda
City Hall, N.S. Valdez St. Z.C.
Tel. Fax 092-7763 or 891-0862

(Sgd.) MARIO D. ARRIOLA (CIVIL)

(PCI March 9 & 16, 2006)



AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Name of Project)
Amoxicillin 500 mg, Chlorimazole Vaginal Tabs, etc.

(Brief Description of GOODS)

- The City Government of Zamboanga, through the General Fund 2006 intend to apply the sum of THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY PESOS (P3,540,760.00) ONLY being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Drugs and Medicines (PR No. 100-06-02-0222) Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
- The City Government of Zamboanga now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Amoxicillin 500 mg, Chlorimazole vaginal tabs, etc. Delivery of the GOODS is required for Ten (10) working days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or ownership of a country belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from City Government of Zamboanga-Procurement, Acquisition & Award Division and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from March 9 to 22, 2006.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,200.00. The method of payment will be Cash payable to the City Treasurer. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The City Government of Zamboanga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 09, 2006, 10:00 AM at the City Engineers Conference Room.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, March 22, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Merchant's Check payable to the City Treasurer, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and in the amount of P35,407.60 or Bank Guarantee in the amount of P53,111.40 or Surety Bond in the amount of P85,519.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be on March 22, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the City Engineers Conference Room, City Hall, Z.C. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
- To be delivered in the Office of the City General Services Intended for the Office of the City Health.
- The City Government of Zamboanga reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the allocated Bidder or Bidders.

Procurement, Acquisition & Awards Division
Milagro W.S. Saeveda
City Hall, N.S. Valdez St. Z.C.
Tel. Fax 092-7763 or 891-0862

(Sgd.) MARIO D. ARRIOLA (CIVIL)

(PCI March 9 & 16, 2006)

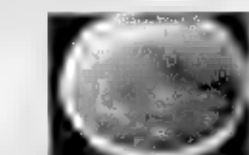
A CULINARY star
celebrates a birthday
/C4

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Send feedback: Inquirer file name/age/city/message to 2207 (G)

or at: lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph



THE MANY ways
to make 'kinilaw'

/C3

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



A STYLIST'S tools of the trade may include food coloring, Kitchen Bouquet, soy sauce and other seasonings. ROGER CARPIO



If it looks good, it may be the styling

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

BEHIND ALMOST EVERY picture-perfect plate of food in a magazine or a cookbook is a food stylist.

Food has to look "alive" in photographs, according to renowned American food stylist Delores Custer, who has been responsible for making everything—from ice cream to seafood—look good for the cameras these past 30 years. Her food-styling jobs are not limited to food features in magazines but also include television commercials and print advertisements.

She also conducts styling workshops at the Culinary Institute of America. Besides the United States and Canada, she has given workshops in Japan, Chile, Argentina and Norway.

Custer was recently in Manila for a day-long food-styling workshop, upon the invitation of Food Magazine editor in chief Norma Chikiamco and contributing editor Corito Llamas, who were both her students at CIA.

Custer was assisted by Mary Grapsas, also a US-based food stylist.

The Manila seminar, which was held at the ELJ Communication Center, was attended by hotel chefs, culinary instructors, art directors, photographers, restaurateurs, caterers, food manufacturers and food enthusiasts who came from as far south as General Santos and as far north as Baguio City.

The graceful 60-something Custer discussed the latest trends in food-styling, how to deal with difficult food, use of color and texture for maximum effect, and shooting for film and camera.

She said the first thing a food stylist had to do was to know the assignment, whether it was for editorial, public relations, advertising, packaging or television purposes. "For any of these assignments, a food stylist should produce pictures that look as good as the lip-smacking photographs you see in magazines or cookbooks," she said.

Custer always brings her styling kit along on all her travels. A food stylist, she said, must have his/her basic equipment for

IF IT LOOKS/C2

STYLIZED salad
can double as a
table centerpiece.

Tiny Kitchen
summer cooking classes with
Vicky Veloso - Barrera
beginning March 27, 2006
kids learn the joys of cooking
in small, hands-on classes
call 410-2279 or 0916-516-5035

CCAC CHINESE CULINARY ARTS CENTER

1654-A Dr. Jose P. Laurel Street,
San Miguel, Manila 1005 Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 704-1296 Telefax No. (632) 735-8189
Email address: ccac@1612006@yahoo.com

- Learn your life time asset this summer and be a better CHEF in just few meetings guaranteed!
- Different AUTHENTIC CHINESE DISHES ranging from Dimsum, Roasting, Family & Short Order, Party and Vegetarian dishes.
- Lessons conducted by the best instructor from Hong Kong who reveals all secrets and techniques.
- Class starts on March 27, 2006. ENROLLMENT ONGOING. Seat arrangement is based on first enrolled first assigned basis. Limited to 16 only per class/meeting.
- Beautiful laminated recipe cards in album for sale.

The ice cream that makes your mouth water may be just an 'illusion' created from sugar, syrup and shortening

Discover An Exciting WORLD FOR YOUR KIDS

(3 TO 12 yrs. old)
Equiv. to 3 Courses. Speech, Grammar, Reading & Comprehension, Speech Arts, Theater Arts, English Fluency, Grammar, Reading & Comprehension, Character Bldg., Personality Dev.
Summer Classes Start Apr 17, 18, 22, May 16
Present Classes Available
SPECIAL FEATURE VTR-SEE YOURSELF ON A LARGE SCREEN

Only at WCT - Your kid will experience seeing & hearing himself on a large screen

• FREE SPEECH MANUAL

• FREE LIFETIME TRAINING

WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla

ACADEMY OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY SINCE 1967

www.wctacademy.com

GREENHILLS 35 Annapolis 723-4718 or 726-8748

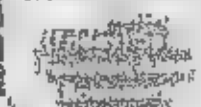
OPTIONAL CENTER Marikina Ave. 638-8034 or 726-8768

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS



Groove to the reggae beat of this exciting band as they promote their latest album under Sony BMG Records.

Brownson Revival



Robinsons Malls

www.robinsonsmalls.com

SLIMMERS WORLD

LOSE UP TO
10 INCHES IN
60 MINUTES!!!

ARTURO GUERRERO
lost 35 lbs on his programme.

JONABEL GAVIETA
lost 34.5 lbs on her programme.



*SAVINGS APPLY TO FULL PROGRAMMES.

FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE

8873533

CELLPHONE

091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

CALL US

www.slimmersworld.com.ph
Inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

BODY METRICS

THE ULTIMATE CORE FAT BURNING PROGRAMME FOR MEN & WOMEN!

FREE ONLY



DANCE AEROBICS*

5 FREE PERSONAL TRAINING SLOTS*



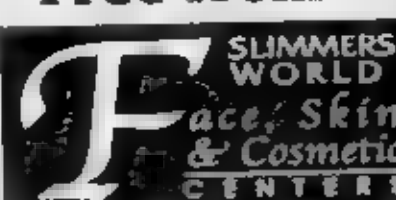
P45
PER DAY

NO JOINING FEES! CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%. MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS. FIRST 25 SLOTS.

Per DTI NCR Permit #2787 Series of 2006

GREAT FACE & SKIN, BODY WHITENING

Free from all Body hair & Blemishes!



DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL
For beautiful, smooth white skin.

HOT MASQUE
For firming and inch loss.

BODY FORMER
Lose 1,000 calories while you relax

*MESOTHERAPY *AQUAMID *NUTRACELL-FACE *BOTOX *RESTYLANE *WART REMOVAL *PERLANE *LASER ACNE TREATMENT *PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL *FACIAL *SKIN WHITENING

GREAT CASH SAVINGS FOR MARCH!!!

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 5 FREE

ON SKIN, FACE & BODY TREATMENTS*. FIRST 25 SLOTS. CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%. Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787 Series of 2006.



BODY FORMER
Lose 1,000 calories while you relax

*MESOTHERAPY *AQUAMID *NUTRACELL-FACE *BOTOX *RESTYLANE *WART REMOVAL *PERLANE *LASER ACNE TREATMENT *PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL *FACIAL *SKIN WHITENING

ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Roda/Olive 365-7653
CEBU Luisa/Chryso 231-3254
GREENHILLS Eleanor/Juvy 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah 893-8935
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 536-0619

MEGAMALL Gina/Maureen 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan 897-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Lorie/Dino 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Anna 814-0138

SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196
MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473814/09275341314



DELORES Custer is a prominent food stylist and teacher in New York City. ROGER CARPIO



CHICKEN Manila

If it looks good, it may be the styling

IN FOOD STYLING, one must know balance in composition, either formal (symmetrical) or informal (asymmetrical).

From page C1

styling. The kit should include measuring items (spoons, cups and digital timer); knives and shears (slicer, parer, corer and zester); cleaning and touch-up aids (Q-Tips, handi-wipes); food items (Kitchen Bouquet, corn syrup, gelatin and cornstarch); brushes and spatulas, and things like tweezers, syringes, needle and thread, and thin wire.

Tricks of the trade

Custer revealed tricks food stylists use to highlight a product's features and minimize its flaws. For instance, ice cream, one of the most difficult foods to photograph, is often made from powdered sugar, butter-flavored Crisco shortening and Karo syrup.

She used Kitchen Bouquet to simulate "coffee without scum" or, diluted in water, iced tea and chardonnay wine.

She worked with Elmer's glue for that whiter, thicker milk. A hot skewer was used to add grill marks to grilled vegetables. For pasta, like pesto, she substituted parsley for basil "for that greener, richer look."

"You see, there are right tools for the right stuff," Custer pointed out.

A food stylist could use a steam machine to make food look piping hot and substitute non-melting plastic ice cubes in cold drinks.

Soap bubbles are added to a glass of milk for that freshly poured look. Meat is slathered with Vaseline or mineral oil for

sheen. A tablet of Alka Seltzer could keep carbonated beverages fizzy for the camera.

Bottom line

Lest you think a food stylist's job is simply to fake it, Custer stressed that a food stylist must be a very good cook.

"I still believe it is important for food stylists to have good baking skills, as well as cooking skills," she said.

Participant Jean Pierre Migne, executive chef of Manila Diamond Hotel, agreed. "You can always learn styling, but the bottom line is cooking," he said. "Most food stylists were cooks before. Custer was right when she said you should at least know how a particu-

lar ingredient would react in the oven." Sandy Masigan of Dimsum N' Dumplings said she would now keep a food-styling kit for pictorials of their products.

Glenda Barretto of the Via Mare chain of restaurants realized that using mashed potatoes as a substitute for ice cream was now "obsolete."

"Now I can use Crisco and powdered sugar," she said. "[And] to make my sauces look shiny in pictures I only need to add Karo syrup. That I really didn't know."

Each participant got a handout of different types of food-styling (for editorial, advertising, packaging, television and film) and basic equipment. During lunch at Restaurant 9501, ABS-CBN's exclusive penthouse resto, Custer's special dishes like Chicken Manila, meat and potato casserole and coconut calamansi bars were served.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph.



A FOOD stylist must know the camera angle and how the light hits the food.



CUSTER says preparing food for the camera requires skills different from preparing food for the table.



LOCALS who used mashed potatoes for ice cream photos before learned something new from Custer.

New credit card scam by phone?

AN E-MAIL FROM ABROAD warns of a new credit card scam.

Some people have reportedly received calls purportedly from the issuer of their credit card. The caller identifies himself as somebody with the security and fraud department of the company and even gives a badge number. He proceeds to tell the client that his/her card has been flagged for an "unusual purchase pattern" so he is calling to verify.

The caller already knows basic details like the card number, the issuing bank and the client's address. He mentions an establishment where purchase was supposedly made. When the client denies making the purchase, the caller says the credit card company will credit the amount of the spurious purchase to the client's account.

The caller then tells the credit card holder, "I will be starting a fraud investigation."

"If you have any questions, you should call the 1-800 number listed on the back of your card and ask for Security." He gives a six-digit control number supposedly to facilitate inquiries.

The clincher—and how the scam works—the caller allegedly says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card." He asks you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers." There are seven numbers—the first four are part of your card number, the next three are security numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. The caller will ask for those three numbers.

He will tell you later, "That is correct. I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card."

According to the e-mail, the original source of the warning phoned the card company 20 minutes after receiving the call to ask a question. The company's real security department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a

THE CONSUMER

Linda B. Bolido

new purchase... was charged to our card."

What the scammers want, the warning says, is the three-digit PIN (personal identification number) at the back of the card. Credit card issuers say they will never ask for anything on the card as they already have the information since they issued the card.

Though the local Citibank office has not heard of such a scam, it repeats its advice to clients never to disclose personal information and/or their PIN to anyone. "In the interest of protecting our clients from similar scams, Citibank regularly sends out mailers offering security tips and we also make relevant information easily available on our website at www.citibank.com.ph," the company says.

Tips

It offers the following security tips:

- Keep your PIN confidential. Do not write it down and paste on to your ATM card. Your PIN should be memorized and not recorded anywhere. Try not to use consecutive numbers, or numbers linked to your personal information like birth date, home address, phone number.

- Never disclose your PIN via regular e-mail, which is not encrypted.

- Never lend your card to any one or accept advice from strangers while you are using it.

- Do not open e-mail from unfamiliar persons/sources. Scan any attachments you receive via e-mail and immediately delete suspicious messages with attachments.

- Watch out for scam e-mail. It may appear to come from a trusted

business colleague/associate or friend, but is actually designed to trick you into downloading a virus or visiting a fraudulent website and disclosing sensitive information.

- Be aware of phony "look-alike" websites designed to trick people into disclosing personal information. If you are suspicious of a website, leave it. Do not follow any of the instructions given.

- As a rule, banks will not send e-mail to customers to verify confidential, personal or account information. Delete e-mail of this nature, even if it appears to have come from your bank.

- If you bank online, make sure no one is watching you while you key in your PIN or any other sensitive information. Citibank introduced recently the Dynamic PIN Pad, a special security feature to prevent people from capturing keystrokes when the PIN is entered.

- Check your accounts regularly and contact your bank immediately if you note any discrepancies/irregularities.

Resolved

Thanks to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for helping resolve the complaint of Doris Irog (Jan. 12) regarding charges to her cashless-shopping card though she was unable to use it. The Equitable Card Network Inc. informed the BSP's Supervision and Examination Department that it "already effected credit to the client's account on 10 January 2006," after it received the report on the unsuccessful transaction.

(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Rocas Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati, or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph—Editor)

Thai food festival

DUSIT HOTEL'S Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant presents the Chaopraya promo until March 31. A la carte menu includes Chaopraya Ruam Mit (deep-fried fish, prawn, vegetables served with chili sauce), Tale Tid Dinn (glass noodle with prawn and yellow curry), Pla Vay Nam (deep-fried lapu-lapu topped with herbs and spices), Vihok Kuen Rang (stir-fried seafood with special sauce served in crispy cup) and Yam Samun Pri (crispy, fried Thai herb with fish salad). Call 8873333.

INTERCONTINENTAL'S Café Jeepney presents Davao Food Fiesta buffet until March 31, for lunch (Monday-Sunday) and dinner (Monday-Saturday). Menu includes Turyum Likaw (fresh sea urchin roe salad), Tuna Chicharon (tuna crackling), Supha Panga sa Bar-iks (grilled tuna jaw), Baka-Tulog (beef casserole in chocolate tabiya sauce), Pinais nga Pandawan awon Kaupans (steamed-grilled maki-maki and fresh mushrooms), Pinauga nga Adobong Baboy Lempo (crisp-fried garlic-stewed pork belly), Balbacua with Tangled Sauce (crispy fried ox tail with lemon grass sauce), Puto Taktak (steamed cassava with dry molasses) and Balanghoy Budbud with Durian Sauce (cassava dumplings with durian cream). Call 8159711.

MANILA PAVILION Hotel's Bouvar features Sushi and Sashimi Platter promo until March 31, at P495 ++ per order. Call 5261212 local 2317.

SHANGHAI BISTRO offers a graduation special package. Customers can choose from two sets of menu prepared by Shanghai Bistro's Chinese chefs. A set menu of Barbecued Meat combination, Seafood Roll, Seafood Beancurd Soup, Steamed Fish Fillet Shanghai-Style, Pan-fried Beef Cake with Black Pepper Sauce, Steamed Black Mushroom Stuffed with Minced Shrimp, Braised E-fu Noodles with Assorted Meat, Yang Chow Fried Rice, Quet Sweet Dim Sum, Almond Jelly and one round of iced tea, for P415 net per person. A set menu worth P435 net per person features Sizzling Pig combination, Hot Chicken Salad, Minced Beef Soup with Chinese Parsley, Fried Fish Fillet with Golden Mint Sauce, Stir-fried Beef with Bamboo Shoot and Baby Corn, Pork Spareribs King Tao Sauce, Braised E-fu Noodles with Assorted Meat, Fookden Fried Rice, Quet Sweet Dim Sum, Almond Jelly and one round of iced tea. The graduation special package promo is valid at Shanghai Bistro's Eastwood City Walk 2 and Paseo Center-Makati branches until April 30. Call 6877103, 6871077, 8928870 and 8928872.

BURGDO gives 15-percent discount in all its branches to all graduates until April 30. Just present your diploma or graduation certificate before

ordering. Burgoo's all-time favorites include Oklahama-style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Seafood Linguini, Supreme Pizza, Hamburgoo, Buffalo Chicken Wings, Sta. Fe Spring Rolls among others. Call 9277424 8991815, 6875254, 7264663 and 9136112.

CHINESE MONK at G/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati, offers 15-percent discount to graduates. Just present your diploma or graduation certificate before ordering. Promo runs until April 30. Call 8974129.

DINING OUT **BELLEVUE HOTEL** pays tribute to graduates with its 5 + 1 promo. For every group of six taking the buffet at Café D'Asie one dines for free. Call 7718181.

CONGO GRILLE pays tribute to graduates. For a minimum order of P750, a customer is entitled to a free dish. He can choose any of the restaurant's best-selling dishes like the sizzling sirloin, chicken, tuna or shrimp. Promo runs until April 30. Graduates should present a valid school ID to avail of the promo. The restaurant's all-time favorites include Sizzling Sirloin, Pakbet, Kara-Kara, Tuna Bally, Grilled Pussit and Crispy Pata. The new dishes include Beef Mexicana, Adobo Flakes, Kulo! sa Gata and Baked New Zealand mussels. The graduation promo is available in Congo Grille on Arnaiz Street, Makati, El Pueblo, Ortigas Center Westgate Center, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa; SM City Fairview, Quezon City; SM City San Lazaro, Manila; SM City Venzuela, and SM Sta. Rosa, Laguna.



MEATLESS LENT Dimsum N' Dumplings' Taro Puff is made with fresh taro and stuffed with shrimp, squid and crab in a crisp, flaky coating. Taro Puff is available at Dimsum N' Dumplings Tea Bar, 2/F, YMail, Greenhills Commercial Center.



Wings
Wings
Wings
Wings
Wings

Panasonic

SECURITY LOCKS & KILLERS AVAILABLE



MONTEREY
MONTEREY
MONTEREY
MONTEREY
MONTEREY



Century
TUNA



RICO'S
HOT & COLD
EQUAL



QuickMeat
QUICK MEAT
QUALITY MEAT



Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta



Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta



Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta



Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta



Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta



Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta
Pasta



EAGLE WINGS
EAGLE WINGS
EAGLE WINGS
EAGLE WINGS
EAGLE WINGS



ICE CREAM CARTS
ICE CREAM CARTS
ICE CREAM CARTS
ICE CREAM CARTS
ICE CREAM CARTS



ROASTERS & ROTISSERIES
ROASTERS & ROTISSERIES
ROASTERS & ROTISSERIES
ROASTERS & ROTISSERIES
ROASTERS & ROTISSERIES



DISHUM STEAMERS
DISHUM STEAMERS
DISHUM STEAMERS
DISHUM STEAMERS
DISHUM STEAMERS



FAST FOOD BAKERY
FAST FOOD BAKERY
FAST FOOD BAKERY
FAST FOOD BAKERY
FAST FOOD BAKERY



EQUIPMENT
EQUIPMENT
EQUIPMENT
EQUIPMENT
EQUIPMENT



FULL CREAM MILK
FULL CREAM MILK
FULL CREAM MILK
FULL CREAM MILK
FULL CREAM MILK



GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL



GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL
GOLD MEDAL



PETITE & ELLEN LEE TAN
PETITE & ELLEN LEE TAN
PETITE & ELLEN LEE TAN
PETITE & ELLEN LEE TAN
PETITE & ELLEN LEE TAN



Tel. no. 287-9907 to 00
Tel. no. 287-9907 to 00
Tel. no. 287-9907 to 00
Tel. no. 287-9907 to 00
Tel. no. 287-9907 to 00



QUALITY CERTIFIED
QUALITY CERTIFIED
QUALITY CERTIFIED
QUALITY CERTIFIED
QUALITY CERTIFIED

Star-apple theme for a kitchen star's birthday

I RECENTLY TURNED 38. I was never one to look forward to celebrating my birthday but much had changed. I am now the mother to my beautiful 22-month-old son José Diego. Now that there's someone who calls me Mom, my birthday deserves some sort of celebration! So in thanksgiving I hosted a small dinner for just family.

Foie gras? Black Angus? None of the fancy stuff, and no cooking for me! It was my day off! I wanted something simple, hearty and comforting.

Besides, the real reason I did not serve

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras



It was a charmed evening, graced with laughter, good food, and glasses filled with exquisite Beringer Pinot Grigio that went well with the 'inasal'

foie gras and angus is I did not want to spend! Like I said, I am now a mother and I must be wiser. There are better things to spend on, like pre-school! Having said that, though, there was no stopping the party!

Off to work I merrily went and saw perfect star apples at Farmers Market. That completed the theme: Food "Bacolod" style, to be served on banana leaves on tables decked with centerpieces of fresh star apples and *eustoma* flowers in white with tinges of purple; a dessert buffet where everything on it had to be in star-apple hues; and, to give away, *sinamak* in woven baskets wrapped in *kaimito*-colored paper.

I called Joel Torre of JT's Manukan to ask if they cater. They do! I ordered my fancy batchoy, spareribs and, of course, chicken *inasal*. The menu started to take shape. I



JOEL Torre grilling the night away

then called Bailon's for their legendary *lumpiang Bacolod* and to finish, our household staff was tasked to cook *tinapa* rice and make *mangga* salad.

Dinner was all set!

As for the *kaimito*-hued dessert buffet, it was filled with my favorite things. *taho* in ube and *pandan* flavors from Tofurrific; homemade *kutchinta* and *suman* in ube and *pandan* with *kalamay* sauce; Fortune Ledesma's Chocolate Cake (o 'di ba the bark of the leaf?), *marang* from Davao; Gene Gonzales' desserts (delicious *Tocino Del Cielo* and exquisite *Tarta de Madrid*) were a bit harder to color coordinate but then again, it was my party and I'd cry—in this case, serve it—if I want to, right?

What a party it turned out to be! My relatives didn't have it easy, though. They had to come in star-apple colors or they faced a penalty of P200!

It was a charmed evening, graced with laughter, good food and glasses filled with exquisite Beringer Pinot Grigio (it went so well with the *inasal*!) And all I had to pay JT's was P160 per head. The flowers, wine, etc., well, that's a totally different story.

God has been good and life has been kind. I thank you, readers of KR, for making it beautiful!

Sources

I can think of no better way to share the evening with you than by providing all the contact numbers of those I ordered food from, as well as a couple of recipes so that you too may share in the splendor of Bacolod and *kaimito*-themed food with those who matter to you the most!

JT's Manukan—(For P500 they take their grillers along with a grill man and a waiter! For P200 more, you get Joel Torre... kidding! If your party is dressy, request waiters to be in *barong* or *polo*). Call 7219025 and 9288085, or visit 4 Granada St. Ortigas Extension or 26 Sgt. Esguerra St., Barangay South Triangle.

Gene Gonzales' *Tarta de Madrid* and *Tocino del Cielo*—if you want an impressive dessert, this *tarta* is it! It is too beautiful, so serve it only if you like your guests! Call 3732789-90.

Lumpiang Bacolod—Bailon's. Super sarap! Call 8436673.

Beringer Pinoy Grigio—Happy Living Fine Wine. Call 8956507 or 8960336.

Chocolate Cake—Fortune Ledesma. Call 8443663.

Taho—Tofurrific. Call 0917-8910886.

Eustoma or *waling*—cut-flower wholesaler. Call 9299310 or 9299306.

Food for thought... According to my favorite Bacolodians, Joel Torre and chefs Fernando Aracama and Jomi Gaston, *inasal* means skewered on a stick. It originally started with *espada* fish until the '50s when quartered chicken was experimented on by a family. Today it is synonymous to chicken. *Inasal* comes from the root word "asal" which means *thaw* or *grill*.

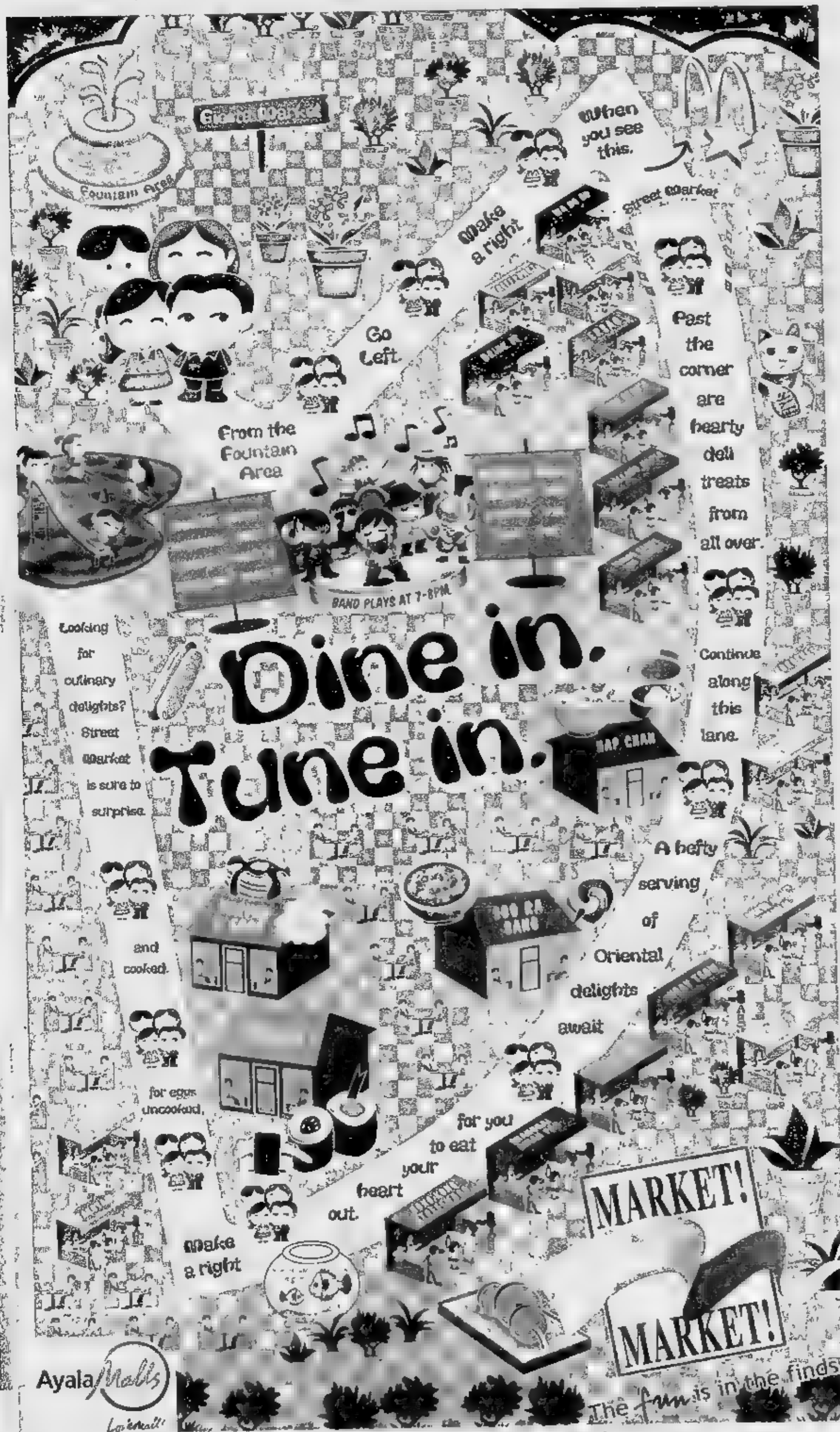
Marilou Sialza's Delicious Mangga Salad

2 c Indian mango, chopped
1/2 c onions or shallots, chopped
1/2 c tomatoes, chopped
1/2 c *guisadong bagong alamang*, the sweet or spicy kind, your choice
1/3 c *wansuy*, chopped
Mix well. Let sit at least 30 minutes before serving.

Mini Kuchinta with Kalamay

1 c sugar
3/4 c all-purpose flour
1/4 c rice flour
1 3/4 c water
1 tsp apog water
1 tsp *lihia*
1 tsp ube or *pandan* extract
Combine all the ingredients, mix well. Pour greased mini muffin molds. Steam 12 minutes.
Sauce:
1 c muscovado sugar
1 c *kakang gata*
1/2 c +/- glutinous rice flour
Combine in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Serve with *kuchinta*.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph



Adrenaline Rush. The BMW Xpo Month.

BMW Xpo 2006



Adrenaline Rush: The BMW Xpo Month BMW kicks off month-long event series

For the month of March, authorized BMW dealers nationwide are hosting Adrenaline Rush -- a month-long BMW Event Series featuring special dealer-based activities and exclusive ownership deals to prospective BMW owners.

The highlight of the BMW Xpo Month is an exclusive weekend event for BMW enthusiasts. From March 17-19, the BMW Xpo Central Event will feature the latest BMW products, special BMW Aftersales services, BMW lifestyle items, and innovative BMW Ownership Programs.

BMW Product Range: Exciting new model variants unveiled

The BMW Xpo Central Event will showcase the latest BMW cars, which comprise the youngest and widest model range in the luxury segment. Making its Philippine premiere are the newest additions to the BMW model range: the distinguished BMW 730i, the confident X5 Sport and the executive 523i.

The new BMW 730i is equipped with a 3.0 liter, in-line 6-cylinder, diesel engine. This long-wheelbase luxury saloon is characterized by its refined power, unmatched comfort, and superior driving dynamics with the fuel efficiency of a BMW diesel engine.

The new X5 3.0i Sport Edition will also be presented during the BMW Xpo Central Event. Equipped with a specially designed aerodynamic package and high performance 20" inch wheels, the trendsetting BMW X5

Sport Edition projects an imposing muscular stance that perfectly complements the vehicle's dynamic character and performance.

Combining power and efficiency in one impressive executive package is the new BMW 523i. This latest variant of the 5 Series is powered by an efficient all-new magnesium-aluminum composite six-cylinder petrol engine, offering both a commanding and dynamic performance.

Premium Selection: The widest selection of Certified Pre-Owned BMW cars

BMW will likewise offer comprehensive information on BMW Premium Selection - BMW's pioneering Certified Pre-owned Program during the Xpo Central Event. BMW cars under Premium Selection pass through strict criteria including a 100-point technical check and are thus covered by a 12-month or 20,000 kilometer warranty. BMW is the only car manufacturer in the automotive industry that offers a warranty on used cars.

Customers at the BMW Xpo Central Event can have instant access to the complete line of pre-owned BMW cars being offered by all authorized BMW dealers through its Virtual Showroom - an interactive online car finder located at www.bmw.com.ph. With this in-



novative web-based service, prospective BMW owners can conveniently locate their pre-owned vehicle and arrange for a test drive.

Innovative BMW Ownership Options

Owning a BMW during Xpo month is made much easier with the exclusive financing deals BMW Philippines in partnership with BPI Family Savings Bank. Prospective BMW owners can avail of a special deal of 50% downpayment, 24 month installment plan at zero percent interest on all variants of the BMW X5 and X3. Other flexible financing terms available are the 10% downpayment and 7 years to pay installment option on brand new BMW cars and the 20% downpayment and 5 years to pay installment plan on Premium Selection vehicles.

Special BMW Promotions: Win a Brand-New BMW X3 or a Year's Supply of Fuel from Petron

The complete model range of BMW cars will be available for test drives during the BMW Xpo Central Event. Complimentary leather luggage straps from Samsonite await the first 100 test drives. However, an added bonus is in store for one lucky test driver - the chance to drive home a BMW X3. All those availing of a test drive will be au-

tomatically qualified to join the BMW X3 Vault Promotion. Each test drive will give the test driver a chance to punch a 5-digit number combination to a vault which holds the key to a brand new BMW X3. The person who unlocks the vault instantly wins the BMW X3.

Buyers of BMW cars are also specially rewarded during Xpo month. For the entire month of March, every purchase of a brand new or pre-owned BMW car entitles the buyer to join a raffle where they get the chance to win one year's supply of fuel from Petron. Additionally, all buyers will receive a spa package for men from Institute Sautre.

BMW Aftersales Services: Original BMW Parts and Accessories

The latest original BMW parts and accessories are also featured at the BMW Xpo Central Event. Visitors will be able to see the latest BMW aerokits, alloy rims, exhaust systems, and various other accessories.

Those seeking to further individualize their BMW can virtually install the latest BMW accessories on to their BMW of choice through the BMW Car Configurator. This interactive program then provides an instant preview of the personally designed vehicle. A new BMW 3 Series specially fitted with the latest M Sport Aerody-

amic kit will be on display to present the wide variety of possibilities for individualization that BMW provides.

BMW Lifestyle: F1 and M Collection available

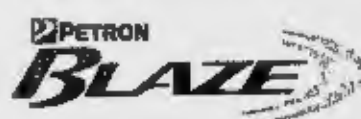
The BMW Xpo Central Event likewise gives visitors the first opportunity to see and purchase BMW-Sauber F1 Team lifestyle items. The latest F1 gear from the new BMW Sauber Team will be on sale for the team's fans and other F1 aficionados.

BMW racing enthusiasts can also purchase exclusive items from the M Collection.

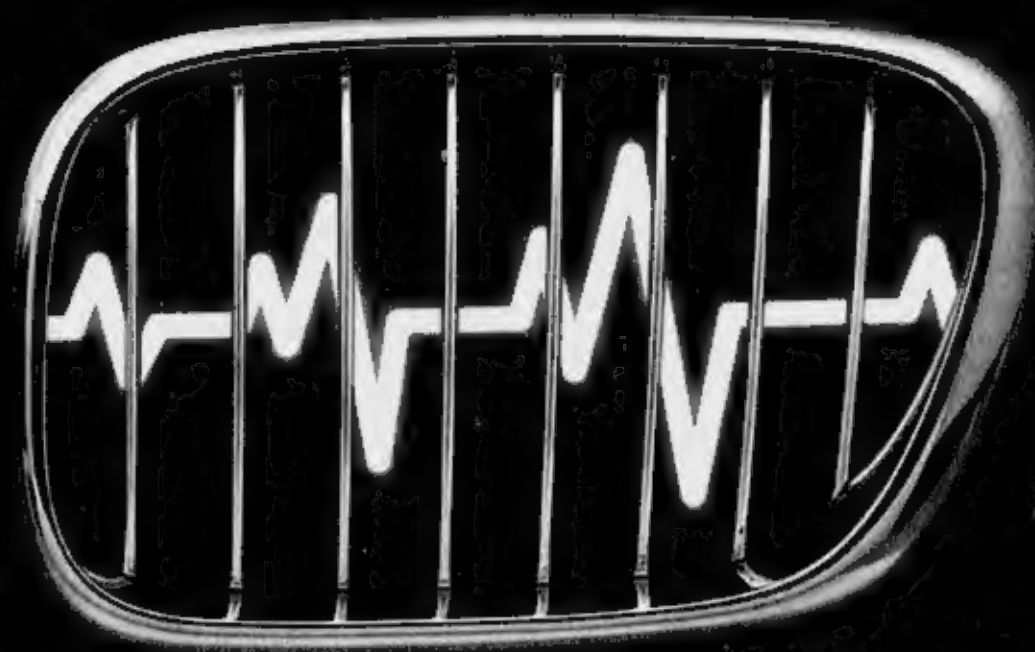
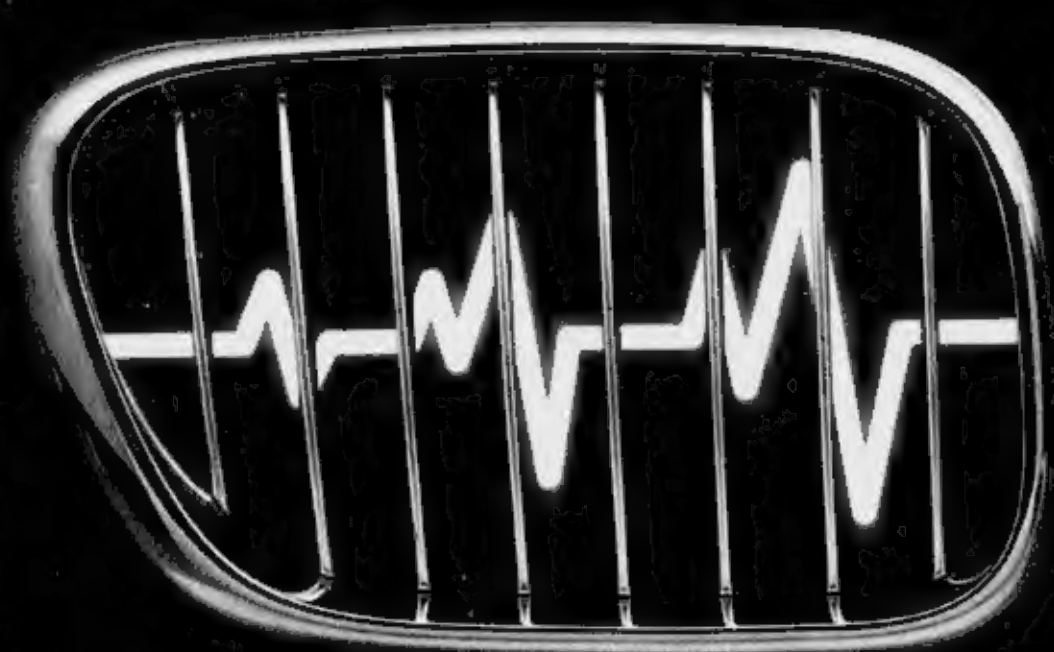
Welcome to the XPO

The BMW Xpo Central Event takes place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the BMW Pavilion, Fort Bonifacio Global City. Visitors can expect a memorable BMW experience as well as a chance to win a brand new BMW X3.

The BMW Xpo is made possible through the support of BPI Family Bank, Petron, Samsonite, and Institute Sautre.



Adrenaline Rush. The BMW Xpo Month.



Announcing a series of BMW dealer activities highlighted by an exciting BMW Central Event.

BMW Xpo 2006

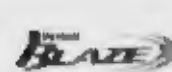
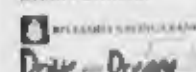
BMW Xpo Month Activities March 1 to 31, 2006 All authorized BMW Dealerships

- 50% downpayment, 0% interest for 24 months on selected BMW models
- 10% downpayment, 7 years financing on all BMW models
- Chance to win 1 year worth of fuel from Petron for every BMW purchase
- Individual dealer activities

BMW Xpo Central Event Activities March 17 to 19, 2006 BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

- New model introductions
- Chance to win a brand new BMW X3 for every test drive
- Surprise gifts for BMW Xpo Central Event visitors

Event Partners





The new BMW 730Ld: Smooth and refined diesel power



ANNOUNCING the distinguished arrival of the new BMW 730Ld

Combining comfort and performance
with fuel efficiency

THE NEW BMW 7 SERIES MADE ITS DISTINGUISHED arrival as the most comfortable luxury limousine. In the Philippines, the 7 Series luxury saloon, which is particularly known for its rear seat comfort, has been available in the fuel powered variants namely, 730 Li, 750 Li and the top-of-the-line 12 cylinder 760 Li.

BMW Philippines further expands the available model range of the 7 Series with the introduction of the 730Ld, 3.0 liter in-line 6 cylinder, diesel variant. This long-wheelbase luxury saloon is positioned as the premium vehicle of choice for the discerning individual who enjoys driving by him- or herself. The new BMW 730Ld is characterized by its refined power, unmatched comfort, and superior driving dynamics with the fuel efficiency of a BMW diesel engine.

The new BMW 730Ld is powered by a silent and smooth 3.0 liter, inline 6-cylinder diesel engine that produces 231hp at 4,000rpm with peak torque of 520Nm avail-

able from 2,000rpm to 2,750rpm - the same torque found in the powerful BMW M5. Furthermore, the straight-six in the BMW 730Ld reaches a top speed of 238kph and accelerates from zero to 100kph in 7.8 seconds.

Despite its impressive engine power and performance, fuel consumption is rated at 12.2 km/liter (composite), making it the most fuel efficient car available in its class in the Philippines. This efficient power unit is housed in a lightweight all-aluminium crankcase using the latest generation common rail diesel engine technology.

Instead of the usual electric magnet technology found on common rail fuel injection, fuel is injected into the valves of the BMW 730 Ld diesel by way of a piezo-element. Whenever put under pressure, piezo crystals generate an electric voltage. Conversely, they expand in size when subject to electric tension, operating extremely quickly and with a very high standard of precision

on the intake jets. This allows very precise calculation of fuel quantities resulting in more power on less fuel and cleaner exhaust emissions. It also leads to a significant reduction in engine noise and an improvement in motoring refinement.

Like the popular BMW 730Li, equipment level is equally high in the new 730Ld. The major trendsetting technological features include Adaptive Drive, fully adjustable electronic rear seats, and a state-of-the-art rear entertainment system that includes a TV receiver and a 6-Disc DVD changer.

Experience the refined power of the new BMW 730Ld - now available at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Klassik BMW (Araneta Avenue - Quezon Avenue, Quezon City), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).

BMW unveils the new BMW 523i

Featuring the world's lightest
six-cylinder engine in its class



BMW Philippines
announces the executive
arrival of the latest variant
of the BMW 5 Series model
range - the new BMW 523i



World's lightest six-cylinder: Efficient power with enhanced dynamism.

The new BMW 523i is powered by a technologically advanced aluminium-magnesium composite BMW engine. Weighing just 161 kg, the new straight-six engine featured in the new BMW 523i is the world's lightest six-cylinder engine in its class. This new BMW engine is two-thirds lighter than an equivalent engine made from steel. As a result, customers benefit from the reduction in weight through greater economy, enhanced dynamism, and outstanding agility.

The extraordinary low weight of BMW's six-cylinder is complemented by the engines' superior power and performance. This is largely attributable to the second generation VALVETRONIC technology offered for the first time in the 5 Series in the new BMW 523i. BMW's Valvetronic technology allows infinite management of valve opening times and control timing as a function of the gas pedal position which leads to improved engine response and efficient delivery of power.

In terms of performance, the straight six-cylinder 2,496cc powerhouse found in the new BMW 523i produces an impressive 177 hp with maxi-

mum torque of 230Nm, 95 per cent of which is available between 1,500rpm to 6,000rpm. It reaches a top speed of 235 kph and accelerates from zero to 100 kph in 8.5 seconds. Fuel efficiency is not compromised with the new-BMW 523i achieving a composite fuel consumption rating of 11.7 km per liter.

DSC+ : Technological Advancement for a smooth and safe ride.

The new BMW 523i additionally features DSC+, a development of the widely-acclaimed Dynamic Stability Control system featured on every BMW model. DSC+ adds five features to the standard DSC: Brake Standby, Rain Brake Support, Hill Start Assist, Fading Compensation and Soft Stop.

Rain Brake Support recognizes the onset of rain (through a screen sensor or use of the wipers) and wipes residue off the brake discs in preparation for use. Hill Start Assist allows a manual transmission car to pull away smoothly on a gradient without rolling backwards by maintaining brake pressure for the short time taken to apply the accelerator after releasing the foot or

handbrake. Fading Compensation removes the danger of brake fade when the brakes get hot by automatically applying them harder without extra pressure from the driver.

Brake Standby shortens stopping distances by priming the brakes if the driver lifts off the accelerator sharply in preparation for an emergency stop. The result is a car that has already commenced the stopping process in an emergency situation by the time the driver applies the brake. Soft Stop, meanwhile, allows the car to come to a perfectly smooth halt by releasing a small proportion of the braking pressure at the end of the braking cycle.

The advanced technology offered in the new BMW 523i thus results in an executive sedan with the perfect balance of performance and fuel efficiency.

The executive arrival of the new BMW 523i is now available at all authorized dealers, namely, Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Klassik BMW (Araneta Avenue - Quezon Avenue, Quezon City), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).

THE new BMW X5 Sport: Confident arrival at the BMW Xpo Central Event



The new BMW X5 Sport Confident. Dynamic. Muscular.



BMW PHILIPPINES FURTHER expands the X5 model range with the limited offer of its latest variant - the new BMW X5 Sport.

Based on the BMW X5 3.0i Executive, this limited variant comes equipped with an original aerodynamic package, which consists of injection molded thermoplastic front apron, rear apron and side skirts. Also included in the X5 Sport are specially designed wheel arc extensions and high performance 20" alloy wheels fitted with Michelin tires. Put together, these components provide the new X5 Sport with an unmistakable muscular and sporty stance.

Aside from dynamic looks, the new BMW X5 Sport also delivers superior driving performance through its 3.0-litre straight-six power unit that produces a maximum of 231 bhp and 300 Nm of torque. The X5 3.0i Sport Edition reaches a top speed of 210 km/h and accelerates from 0-100 km/h in just 8.3 seconds. Composite fuel consumption, in turn, is a very efficient 12.7 litres/100 km.

With its trendsetting features, the BMW X5 Sport is the ideal choice for BMW enthusiasts seeking for the comfort features of a luxury vehicle combined with the practical features of a Sport Activity Vehicle.

The new BMW X5 Sport is available for a limited period at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Autohaus BMW (Libis, Quezon City), Klassik BMW (Araneta Avenue - Quezon Avenue, Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).



The confidence to set the trend.
The BMW X5 Sport.

X5



The BMW X5, the founder of the Sports Activity Vehicle segment, remains the benchmark in sporting performance, all road capabilities and luxurious comfort.

- The new BMW X5 Sport is equipped with high-performance 20" inch light alloy wheels and a sporty aerodynamic kit.
- The intelligent xDrive four-wheel drive system boosts agility while ensuring the highest level of traction, safety and driving pleasure.
- Innovative technology like DSC (Dynamic Stability Control) and HDC (Hill Descent Control) contribute to outstanding agility and car-like handling characteristics.

The BMW X5. Confident Arrival.

Special PROJECT

BMW and BPI Family Savings Bank announce new flexible ownership plans



The new BMW 1 Series. Trendy arrival for only 10% downpayment.

BMW PHILIPPINES and the BPI Family Savings Bank announce new flexible ownership plans for brand new and pre-owned BMW vehicles.

For the month of March, BMW customers can own a BMW X5 or X3 at zero percent interest for as long as 24 months with a 50% downpayment. Extended financing terms of up to 7 years are likewise available for all brand new BMW models, with a minimal 10% downpayment.



For those interested in purchasing a certified pre-owned BMW vehicle under the Premium Selection program, financing terms of 20% downpayment with monthly payments for up to 5 years are also available.

Customers can take advantage of flexible BMW

ownership options at the BMW Xpo Central Event from March 17 to 19 at the BMW Pavilion in the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Comprehensive information is likewise available at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Klassik BMW (Araneta Avenue-Quezon City), Autohaus BMW (Libis, Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Premiere Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).



The BMW Service Inclusive Programme - now available in the Philippines

For predictable, low cost expert maintenance

BMW PHILIPPINES INTRODUCES the Service Inclusive Programme -- a comprehensive service and repair programme that is the first of its kind in the local automotive industry. With this latest Aftersales product, buyers of brand-new BMW automobiles can take advantage of expert BMW care, genuine parts, specialized tools, and diagnostic equipment -- all for a one-time affordable price.

With this BMW Group approved international programme, customers who purchase a brand new BMW from authorized BMW dealers can enjoy comprehensive coverage of scheduled and unscheduled after sales service beyond the vehicle's standard 2-year unlimited mileage warranty period.

The various BMW Service Inclusive Programme options are a strategic investment for BMW enthusiasts who derive maximum enjoyment from their vehicle through frequent usage. With BMW Service Inclusive Programme coverage, these customers benefit from the financial security of predictable ownership costs, as well as the assurance against unexpected repair expenses.

Additionally, since no payment is required at the end of each scheduled service on vehicles covered by any of the BMW Service Inclusive Programme variants, owners conveniently don't need to personally bring in their car for maintenance or re-

pairs. BMW Service Inclusive Programme coverage is also fully transferable to subsequent owners for the remaining term of validity therefore contributing further to BMW's high residual value.

The BMW Service Inclusive Programme is available locally in three options:

• BMW Basic Service Inclusive - Covers change of engine oil and oil filter; servicing and replacement of air filters, microfilters, spark plugs, and brake fluid; and BMW diagnostic checks as set out in the BMW Service Booklet in the owner's documentation for a period of 5 years or 60,000 kilometers.

• BMW Service Inclusive - Extends the services covered under BMW Basic Service Inclusive to also cover the replacement of wear and tear parts, namely brake discs, brake linings, clutch (wear and tear only) and windscreen wiper blades are also included -- provided they are not caused by improper use of the vehicle. Coverage period is for 5 years or 60,000 kilometers.

• BMW Service + Repair Inclusive - Building on the service listed above for BMW Service Inclusive, BMW Service + Repair also extends the customer's warranty for the repair of defective components to 3 years or

60,000 kilometers.

The BMW Service Inclusive Programme is available to brand-new car buyers provided that the service package was ordered as an extra option within six months from the date when the car was purchased from all authorized BMW dealers.

The BMW Service Inclusive Programme is available at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Klassik BMW (Quezon City-Araneta-Quezon Avenue), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City-Libis), Premier BMW (Pampanga), and Performance BMW (Cebu).



THE new BMW Z4 is available with the BMW Service Inclusive Programme

An extended invitation to Sheer Driving Pleasure.



Presenting the first 7-year financing plan with 10% downpayment - on all BMW models.



- Low downpayment of 10%, starting at P364,000 on a BMW X3.
- Low monthly payments, for as low as P33,257 on a BMW X3.*
- Sheer driving pleasure spread across 7 years.

The latest BMW models -- the youngest and widest range of models in the premium segment today -- now available through BMW's new 7-year financing plan.

In cooperation with Bank of the Philippine Islands.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

Drive your Dream

Promo period from February 11 to March 31, 2006. For DTI-MCR Permit Number 0861. Series of 2006.

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 6380734 • Fax (02) 4380410 • Prestige Cars BMW 2664 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa • Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 • Fax (02) 7726025 • Klassik BMW 20 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 7816666 • Fax (02) 7314433 • Premiere Cars BMW 1001 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa • Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 • Fax (02) 7726025 • Performance BMW 1001 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa • Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 • Fax (02) 7726025